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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Is CUC doing enough to explain why it needs to increase its power rates at this time?

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NMC Registration

More than 350 students register with NMC on the first day of its enrollment period.

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Suspect's Nihilism

Three years ago, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords took a question from Jared Loughner.

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Taylor's Music

Taylor Swift is tightlipped when it comes to her personal life.

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Inos orders US, NMI flags at half-staff for AZ tragedy. PAGE 5

Fitial seeks lenient sentence for 'dear friend' Tom DeLay

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

What does Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, foreign ambassadors, members of the U.S. Congress and others outside the CNMI have in common?

They have all asked a federal judge

in Texas to give a lenient sentence to former U.S. House majority leader Tom DeLay, who is set to be back in court Monday (Tuesday Saipan time) for the sentencing phase of his trial.

DeLay was convicted on Nov. 24 on charges of money



DeLay

laundering and conspiracy to commit money laundering in a scheme to illegally funnel corporate money to Texas candidates in 2002.

In his capacity as CNMI governor, Fitial wrote a letter to U.S. District Court for Texas Judge Pat Priest to seek

leniency for DeLay.

"I am writing today to express my strong support for leniency in the sentencing of my dear friend Tom DeLay," Fitial said in his one-page letter.

He was among 30 who submitted letters of character and support for DeLay, who could get up to 99 years in prison.

See DELAY on Page 4

CUC AMENDS RATE HIKE PETITION

15 pct. power rate hike sought

» Proposal effective Jan. 11 through March 2011

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After reviewing the rate hike recommendation of Georgetown Consulting, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. filed an amended petition with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission on Friday, agreeing to a 15-percent increase in its base electric rates. See POWER on Page 4

AS FINANCES WORSEN

Cuts in quarterly allotments

» Budget call for FY 2012 begins
» Projected also at \$132M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Government agencies can expect cuts in their quarterly allotments as early as February in order to balance the \$132 million budget and meet larger-than-expected expenses in fiscal year 2011, acting governor Eloy S. Inos said.

See CUTS on Page 4



A PROBLEM FOR YEARS

A pickup truck negotiates a river-like, pothole-laden road at the Saipan seaport area yesterday afternoon. The heavy rainfall the past few days have been flooding many low-lying and flood-prone areas such as this stretch of rough road in Lower Base/Puerto Rico, prompting the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam to issue a flood advisory for Saipan and Tinian.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fund paid \$402K for 'defective' software

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund paid over \$402,000 for its pension software program, an equipment Fund officials

now describe as defective.

Records obtained by Saipan Tribune showed that Express Electronics Ltd. was awarded a \$449,800 contract by the Fund in 2008 to deliver the still inoperable software.

Express Electronics owner Gary Sword and then Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero signed the contract for the delivery of the software on April 28, 2008.

See FUND on Page 4

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Local

Shark fin bill heads to the governor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI may soon become the first U.S. territory to ban shark finning, if and when the governor signs into law a bill that is now headed his way after the House of Representatives passed it without further debate yesterday.

On a 17-0 vote, the House passed yesterday afternoon a House- and Senate-revised version of House minority leader Diego T. Benavente's (R-Saipan) bill seeking to prohibit any person from possessing, selling, offering for sale, trading, or distributing shark fins in the CNMI.

House Bill 17-94 now heads to the governor's desk for action, and the bill's author is optimistic that it will be signed into law.

"I am very happy that it's now going to the governor. I consider this a milestone legislation because it not only benefits the Commonwealth as far as putting our place on the world map in protecting sharks, but it also helps international movement to protect sharks," Benavente said in an interview after the bill's passage.

Once Benavente's bill is signed into law, it will also stop the shark fin soup trade in the CNMI.

The bill underwent a few



» **House debates on scrapping mandatory driver education program**
» **Speaker questions gov't hiring under budget law**

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), seated right, gestures as he talks to Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), left, and Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) during a House session break yesterday afternoon on Capital Hill.

revisions until the Senate recalled it on Dec. 30 to make further clarifications. After reconsideration, the Senate passed a revised version on the same day, reflecting the concerns of international shark protection advocates as well as House members.

The final revision clarifies the bill's intent to exempt possession of shark for non-commercial or subsistence purposes.

The bill's Section 2(c) is now clearer: "Notwithstanding subsection (a), a person in possession of a shark for subsistence

purposes (non-commercial) only shall not be subject to the penalties in this Act."

Benavente said enforcement of the bill has also been tightened up, to involve the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the Department of Public Safety, and the Office of the Attorney General.

Hawaiian State Sen. Clayton Hee, author of a bill that became the strongest anti-shark finning law in the nation, has also been drumming up support for Benavente's bill.

Benavente's bill is modeled after Hee's bill that became law in Hawaii on May 28 this year.

Shark finning is principally responsible for the decline in shark populations worldwide. Between 80 and 100 million sharks are killed each year, which has reduced overall shark populations by an estimated 90 percent.

Mandatory driver's education program

The House, during its first session for 2011 yesterday, debated for almost an hour whether to scrap altogether what many

of them described as the "costly" \$350 mandatory driver education program, but ended up referring the bill back to a committee.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) offered a floor amendment to repeal in its entirety Public Law 15-25 or the Mandatory Driver Education Act of 2006, which requires the completion and passage of a driver's education course as a prerequisite for the issuance of an initial driver's license within the CNMI.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), who offered a substitute to a bill repealing the law, asked his colleagues not to repeal the law in its entirety because the bill's intent remains noble.

Other members, however, agreed that the \$350 that a private firm has been charging in providing mandatory driver education program is costly.

Members agreed to refer the bill back to the House Committee on Education.

Speaker on government FTEs and hiring

In yesterday's morning session, House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) questioned the Fitial administration's interpretation of the fiscal year 2011 budget law's provision on eliminating full-time employee positions when they become vacant.

Tenorio invited the governor's special assistant for management and budget, Vicky Villagomez, to the House session to clarify the Fitial administration's stance on the issue.

The speaker said that Section 602(b) of Public Law 17-21, which eliminates FTEs that "become" vacant, applies only to FTEs that become vacant after the effective date of the law.

See SHARK on Next Page



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IN 'ICE' TRAFFICKING CASE VS EX-COP

US govt to present expert testimony of DEA chemist

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. government informed the federal court yesterday that it intends to present the expert testimony of a Drug Enforcement Administration senior forensic chemist in the case of a former policeman who is facing charges of selling methamphetamine or "ice."

Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Benedetto notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI that DEA chemist Helene Jensen will be testifying in the case against

Florencio Q. Richards.

Jensen conducted the examinations and analyses of the substances that were allegedly seized from Richards.

In her summary of testimony, Jensen confirmed that the samples contained methamphetamine substances.

The jury trial of the 32-year-old Richards will start on Feb. 7, 2011.

According to the indictment, Richards and others conspired sometime in July 2010 to July 15, 2010 to distribute "ice" in exchange for money and other

things of value.

The CNMI Joint Drug Task Force arrested Richards and Belinda O. Omengkar on July 15, 2010, for alleged trafficking and possession of "ice." The two were inside a pickup truck parked at the Garapan Fishing Base at the time of their arrest. Richards was then off-duty.

Richards and Omengkar have pleaded not guilty to the charges filed separately in the Superior Court. Richards also pleaded not guilty to separate charges that were filed in federal court.

Argument over messy house leads to man's arrest

Police arrested on Saturday a man who allegedly pushed his wife from behind, causing her to fall on the floor, during an argument at their house in Tanapag.

Joel Fernandez, 40, was detained for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Bail was set at \$1,500 cash.

Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 19 at 9am.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo appointed the Office of the Public Defender to represent Fernandez.

Detective Norman A. S. Rasiang stated in his report that on Friday at 11:32pm, Fernandez's wife made an emergency call to the Department of Public Safety to report a domestic violence incident at her residence.

Rasiang said that when a police officer arrived at the

house, the victim was seen crying and appeared scared. She also complained of pain in her left elbow and the left side of her buttocks.

Rasiang said the wife told police that she and Fernandez were having an argument about the mess in their house when he pushed her twice from behind, the second time causing her to slip and fall to the floor. Fernandez also allegedly threatened to beat her up.

The wife then grabbed her purse and cell phone and ran

away from the house to call the police for help.

A police officer arrested Fernandez on Saturday at 12:30am.

The wife said their 6-year-old daughter saw her fall when Fernandez pushed her.

Rasiang said the wife disclosed that Fernandez stopped her from calling the police during an argument last year.

The wife told the detective they also had a domestic violence incident in 2003. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

SHARK

From Page 2

He said the law cannot be applied retroactively to FTEs which were vacant prior to its enactment.

"It would be unreasonable to construe PL 17-21 to establish FTEs and at the same time eliminate them," he said.

Tenorio, who was absent when the session resumed after lunch break yesterday, said if PL 17-21 eliminated FTEs that were vacant on its effective date, the result would be that a new FTE could never be established.

During the morning session, the speaker asked Villagomez to seek the attorney general's opinion on the matter, and share that opinion with the House leadership later this week if possible.

The speaker also said upon establishment of a new FTE by joint resolution, the FTE would be vacant when established and therefore eliminated.

"FTEs which are vacant at the time of their establishment are not subject to being eliminated by Section 602(b)," he added.

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Fitial pays for own trip to Hong Kong, Taiwan—press secretary

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial personally funded his trip to Hong Kong and Taiwan, press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday.

“For clarification, the governor’s entire trip is not official as I have confirmed that no CNMI government

funds were expended. His travel arrangements were both self-arranged and paid for,” Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial left on Sunday morning for Hong Kong where he will be staying until Jan. 15.

From there, he will be going to Taipei, Taiwan until Jan. 19 to promote the CNMI as an educational tourism site.

Demapan said Fitial will be attending the 45th anniversary celebration of Luen Thai, the parent company of Tan Holdings.

“His visit to Hong Kong is upon Luen Thai’s invitation to join in the celebration of its 45th anniversary and the opening of a new exhibit hall that includes a showcase of the Marianas and the rest of Micronesia,” Demapan said.

mapan said.

Fitial will then proceed to Taipei to promote the potential for the CNMI to become an educational tourism site.

“Again, this trip is not funded by either government,” Demapan added.

The governor is accompanied by his wife, first lady Josie Fitial, on this trip.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said the CNMI as a U.S. territory has a potential to become a destination for Taiwanese students who would oth-

erwise go to the United States to get U.S. education.

The CNMI is only a few hours away from Taipei.

Inos said that Taiwanese students could come here on a student visa under U.S. laws, the same ones that apply to foreign students coming to the United States to study.

The governor’s visit to Taiwan is at the invitation of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam.

CUTS

From Page 1

The first quarter alone showed a budget deficit of \$6 million.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said a final decision could be made by mid-February as to how much in adjustments will be made.

“The \$132 million is probably an overestimate. We overshoot the estimate, but I don’t think that it’s going to be \$6 million every quarter just like the first quarter. We hope it’s not the case in the second, third and fourth but we are reviewing it,” Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

He said even if there’s only a \$3 million overspending in each of the succeeding quarters, “that is significant enough for us to make adjustments in

the allotment.”

Vicky Villagomez, the governor’s special assistant for management and budget, also said in a letter to Executive Branch departments that given the “weak state” of the economy, the current budget level “will be adjusted further, making it much more difficult to balance.”

“If local revenues do not experience a substantial recovery over the next few months, it will be necessary to revisit your current baseline expenditure, including review of both your current staffing and programs,” Villagomez said in a Jan. 5 memo, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

Inos said allotment control is critical. “It’s not over-expenditure. It’s just that our revenue is not meeting the budget,” he added.

FY 2012 budget call

Villagomez’s letter marks the start of the Fitial administration’s budget call for fiscal year 2012, which will start on Oct. 1.

While revenue projections for the budget year are not yet available, Villagomez said the administration expects “it will be at the same level as the current year of \$132 million.”

The governor’s proposed annual budget for fiscal year 2012 must be submitted to the Legislature by April 1, 2011.

Villagomez asked agencies to submit their 2012 proposed budget and spending plans by Feb. 28, 2011.

She said this will give the Office of Management and Budget enough time to evaluate the requests and meet with each agency before the required submission deadline to the Legislature.

Prudent fiscal responsibility

Villagomez urged agencies to formulate their budget and spending plans with the concept of “doing more with less in a less vibrant economy by right-sizing areas of operations not affecting delivery of basic public services, consolidating programs that are related, and eliminating programs that are duplicative.”

Villagomez said agencies must learn from their experiences in fiscal year 2011 that in the absence of a stable economy, “the benefits it can provide are no longer affordable.”

“We must exercise prudent fiscal

responsibility by safeguarding the limited resources we anticipate to collect and reviving our government’s ability to maintain efficient public health, safety and welfare programs that are affordable,” she said.

Calculations

Agencies are urged to include in their budgets calculation of government contributions such as health insurance, life insurance at 2 percent, Retirement Fund-Defined Benefit Plan at 30 percent, Retirement Fund-Defined Contribution Plan at 4 percent, and Medicare at 1.45 percent.

POWER

From Page 1

Georgetown, a consultant for the commission, had agreed last week with CUC on the need to increase its power rates but pointed out that CUC made in error in its amortization computation.

Based on CUC’s original filing on Dec. 30, it sought a 9.1-percent increase in its power rates—from the current \$0.24446 to \$0.26688 per kilowatt-hour. Because of this “wrong” calculation, Georgetown Consulting proposed a higher rate of 15-percent—from \$0.24446 to \$0.28125 per kWh. The rate hike is intended for CUC to recover the \$2 million loss it incurred due to high fuel prices.

For a residential ratepayers using 500 kWh per month, this will result in an overall increase of about \$18.40 per month.

CUC lawyer Deborah E. Fisher stated in the amended petition that the agency has reviewed and considered the report of Georgetown Consulting and agrees with its new calculations.

“Georgetown’s numbers are accurate; and it would be most appropriate

to utilize a three-month amortization to recoup the under recovery of the LEAC [levelized energy adjustment clause] rate,” stated Fisher.

Under the new petition, CUC wants the commission to grant the requested relief effective Jan. 11, 2011, and continuing to March 31, 2011, in the amount of \$0.03679 per kWh, which represents a three-month amortization of the under recovery.

CUC also asked the commission to suspend any public notice that might normally be required due to the emergency nature of the relief being requested.

Amortization

CUC’s chief financial officer Charles Warren also filed Friday with the commission his supplemental testimony that highlights the advantage of using the three-month amortization over the six-month amortization.

“The three-month amortization will enable CUC to more quickly recover its fuel expense and match the period of recovery to the period in which the fuel costs were incurred. This would be consistent with generally accepted accounting principles, as well as with the principle that a rate should be collected

during the period the expense are incurred,” he said.

He agreed that the six-month amortization would defer recovery and could be more favorable to ratepayers but it also carries the risk that, should price volatility increase, ratepayers would be adversely affected, requiring them to pay both current and prior fuel costs.

“I believe that while it may be beneficial to CUC’s customer to pay less in the next three months as a general principle and extend the payments out six months, the effect will be that the LEAC rate true up, in addition to the amortization payment, would be much higher than it would be if the three-month amortization was used,” he said, adding that as a result, “my concern is that customers will just be delaying payment and that the next LEAC rate will have substantially worse net effect for CUC’s customers.”

Warren said that if customers can make payments that allow CUC to properly recover oil costs for this period, it will provide a fresh start for the next LEAC period—April 11 through Sept. 11—and “my belief is that in the long run this will create less of a burden on customers.”

DELAY

From Page 1

DeLay was once considered one of the most powerful men in U.S. politics, holding the No. 2 job in the U.S. House of Representatives until a jury determined he was into money laundering, among other things. He resigned from Congress in 2006.

Fitial said he has known DeLay for more than a decade to be “an upstanding citizen who cares deeply not only about the people he was elected to represent but also those that have suffered injustice.”

Fitial said during DeLay’s tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, “he was particularly helpful to the CNMI.”

“When our islands were under attack by some Members of Congress, Tom

flew to the CNMI to learn firsthand the plight of our people. We are a very small community located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and our economy is continually under duress. However, with Tom’s support and leadership, we were very successful in developing and maintaining new industries that helped our economy immensely,” Fitial told the judge.

The governor also said that he has come to know DeLay “on a personal level and consider him a dear friend.”

“I respectfully ask for your compassion during this process,” Fitial added.

The 2005 criminal charges in Texas, as well as a separate federal investigation of DeLay’s ties to disgraced former lobbyist Jack Abramoff, ended his 22-year political career. The Abramoff-related probe ended without any charges filed against DeLay, AP said.

In 2009, DeLay appeared on ABC’s hit television show, “Dancing with the Stars.”

But while Fitial praised DeLay for “standing up for people who suffered injustices,” Florida-based human rights activist Wendy Doromal, said “actually, the abused foreign workers who suffered gross injustices were stabbed in the back by DeLay who covered up their conditions and abuses.”

“He then twisted the knife when he used his power to bring in others to support the CNMI-Abramoff agenda to protect the dysfunctional labor and immigration system,” Doromal said in her blog.

Doromal, a former teacher on Rota, said Fitial’s good pal DeLay “helped the Commonwealth by covering up some of the worst and systematic labor abuses ever to occur on U.S. soil.”

FUND

From Page 1

Sword confirmed yesterday that his company had already gotten partial payment for the project despite it being only 95 percent complete.

The project was expected to be completed in 2009 but this did not happen, resulting in a delay of about two years until now.

In the single audit performed for the Fund in 2009, the pension software system was among the serious findings noted by auditors. The report noted contract violations made by both parties.

Fund records show that 89.4 percent of the total project amount—or \$402,340—had already been paid to Sword’s company. The Fund thus still owes Express Electronics \$47,400.

The long-delayed pension program software has been on the board’s agenda for the past several months.

Because of “deficiencies” in the software system, the Fund board hired a program analyst to evaluate the entire project and seek recommendation whether there’s a need to keep the project or scrap it entirely to prevent additional expenses.

Rufin Inos is heading the systems evaluation and he is expected to submit a comprehensive report at the board’s next meeting.

As soon as Inos’ team is done with its tests of the system, Sword said his company will do the necessary work to make the pension program work.

Sword cited the lack of updated Fund data for encoding into the new system as among the main factors that delayed its implementation.

He said the Fund was “overwhelmed” with work in the last couple of years, causing the delay in providing new information for the pension software system to work. Fund personnel should also be trained for the new system, he said.

In order for the software to work, Sword said its record filing system needs to be populated in every field and since many members have retired and exited the system, the software cannot properly process their individual data.

“There were many gaps,” he said.

Sword said his company will work with the Fund to fix this issue as soon

as Inos’ reports are completed.

He said the work to fix the system will be included in the original contract amount, unless the Fund asks for an additional scope of work for the project.

Guerrero defends contractor

Former Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero also came to the defense of Sword, saying the Fund should not blame Express Electronics for the delayed implementation of the pension software system.

“There’s nothing wrong with the project...the problem is in the administration [of the Fund] because it failed to update the individual profile or portfolio of retirees, which is required by the new system,” he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He pointed out that Sword’s company had tried to get the system to work but was stymied by the lack of information and data from the Fund. He said this may be gleaned from previous reports submitted by Express Electronics, and could also be found in the board’s minutes of meetings.

Saipan Tribune learned that the \$449,800 contract for the project had only two signatures: Sword’s and Guerrero’s. The contract contained no other signatures, such as the Fund’s legal counsel.

Highly placed sources told *Saipan Tribune* that these are among the matters currently being checked by the Fund and the current board of trustees.

Guerrero insists that the contract was legal and went through the proper process and procedures. He said three bidders responded to the announcement.

He said request for proposals were issued, a committee evaluated the bidders, and it recommended Sword’s company as the most qualified to get the contract.

“The project went through extensive review by the committee and has complied with all the procurement rules and regulations,” said Guerrero.

Instead of “finger-pointing,” he said the Fund should sit down with Sword’s team to identify a solution to the much-awaited implementation of a system that will efficiently track and monitor the Fund’s operations.

Incumbent Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar declined to comment when contacted yesterday for reactions to Guerrero’s statements.

Inos orders US, NMI flags at half-staff for AZ tragedy

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos ordered yesterday that all U.S. and CNMI flags be flown at half-staff in honor of the victims of Saturday's shooting in Tucson, Arizona.

The shooting killed six that included U.S. District Court Judge John M. Roll, and wounded 14 others, including U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

"In conjunction with President Barack Obama's order to fly flags at half-staff in honor of the late U.S. District Court Judge John M. Roll and the innocent victims of the recent tragedy in the state of Arizona, I hereby request that all U.S. and CNMI flags be flown at half-staff effective immediately and until the close of business on Jan. 14, 2011 as we join the nation in this time of mourning and remembrance," Inos said in

a one-page memo yesterday.

On Capital Hill, for example, U.S. and CNMI flags were already at half-staff yesterday.

Obama also called for a national moment of silence on Monday at 11am to honor vic-

tims of the shooting.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo separately issued on Sunday a statement on the Arizona shooting. They both offered prayers

and condolences to the victims and families of the tragic event, including their colleague, Giffords.

As of Sunday in Arizona, doctors were cautiously optimistic about Giffords' recovery.

U.S. House Speaker John Boehner also said Sunday he had asked that flags in the House side of the Capitol be flown at half-staff, marking the death of one of Giffords' staffers, Gabe Zimmerman. Flags at the White House were also lowered to half-staff on Sunday morning to honor those who died.

Man attacks neighbor with machete

A 53-year-old man who started a joke allegedly got mad when the joke turned on him, prompting him to attack a neighbor with a machete in Garapan on Friday night.

Noel Marcilino Dolde was arrested on Saturday afternoon for assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace. The victim, Carlos Vela, sustained a severe cut on his left arm.

Dolde's bail was set at \$15,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 18, 2011, at 1:30pm.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo appointed the Office of the Public Defender to represent the suspect.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that the incident happened out-

side Vela's barracks along Putting Tai Nobio Avenue.

Pangelinan said that Vela was with his girlfriend and was drinking with his neighbor, while Dolde was playing cards near them. Dolde, who was not drinking, reportedly made a joke to Vela, who returned the joke in kind.

Dolde got angry and proceeded to his room. After a few min-

utes, Dolde came out, walked over to Vela, and swung a machete at the victim.

Vela raised his left arm to block the machete. As a result, his left arm sustained a severe cut.

A neighbor pulled Dolde to the side, while the other neighbor grabbed him back to his room. Someone then called police, who, after conducting a preliminary investigation, arrested Dolde. He is now detained at the Department of Corrections. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Against a backdrop of overcast skies, U.S. and CNMI flags in front of the Legislature's building on Capital Hill are flown at half-staff yesterday following a memo from acting governor Eloy S. Inos, in honor of the victims of Saturday's shooting in Tucson, Arizona.

Man in hot water for early morning ruckus

A man allegedly damaged the car of his girlfriend, pushed and threatened to kill her father, then challenged a police officer to a fight in San Roque on Saturday before dawn.

Junior Fernandez, 41, was arrested for criminal mischief, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Bail was set at \$200 cash and \$1,800 unsecured bond.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo set the preliminary hearing on Jan. 18, 2011, at 1:30pm.

Police investigation showed that on Saturday at 2:30am, Pedro Babauta Camacho was awakened by his daughter, who informed him that she and her boyfriend, Fernandez, were having a problem.

The daughter told Camacho that Fernandez damaged her car and that he was on his way to their residence in San Roque from Garapan.

When Camacho came down-

stairs, he saw Fernandez pulling into the garage with his daughter's car. Camacho noticed that the car's driver's side window was damaged.

When Fernandez got down from the car, he allegedly began yelling at his girlfriend, then punched the car's front windshield several times until it cracked.

Fernandez also allegedly grabbed his girlfriend's arm, causing a scratch mark. He then yelled at Camacho, then pushed him in the chest.

Fernandez allegedly asked Camacho if he wanted a fight and that he would kill him.

Camacho decided to call the police. Responding police officer Raymond Borja tried to calm down Fernandez, who kept shouting.

When Borja tried to handcuff Fernandez, the suspect allegedly cursed the officer and challenged him to a fight. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Life in Motion

CONTINGENT ON CPUC ACTION

CUC projects higher water, wastewater revenues in FY2011

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects to earn \$14.6 million and \$4.1 million from its water and wastewater divisions this fiscal year—if the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission adopts a rate plan that fully funds all CUC obligations.

This is based on the interim financial plan submitted by the utility agency to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to comply with the requirements

of Stipulated Order 1.

For water, CUC projects to earn \$14.585 million in fiscal year 2011, broken down into the following: from residential customers, \$6.3 million; from commercial customers, \$4.9 million; government, \$3 million; and non-rate, \$141,295.

This projected revenue for water reflects a significant increase from the \$10.2 million projected revenue for fiscal year 2010. For fiscal year 2012, CUC expects water revenues to go even higher to \$15.7 million.

In the wastewater division,

CUC's projected revenue of \$4.1 million in fiscal year 2011 is broken down into: residential, \$593,160; commercial, \$1.7 million; government, \$1.8 million; and non-rate, \$31,934.

This is also a slight increase from the \$2.3 million CUC had expected to earn from wastewater in fiscal year 2010. For fiscal year 2012, CUC expected wastewater revenue to top out at \$5.3 million.

However, CUC notes that these "revenues reflect the assumption that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commis-

sion will adopt a rate plan that fully funds all EPA and [interim financial plan] obligations."

In its filing, CUC said it is reviewing alternative rate plans that will lessen the impact on ratepayers and will present its alternatives to the commission.

As required by stipulated order 1, CUC must submit an interim financial plan that will provide details of CUC's plans to generate revenues during the interim period right up to the implementation of the final financial plan—a component of the approved master plan for CUC.

The agency is under deadline to comply with the requirements of two stipulated orders signed in March 2009. The stipulated orders represent the agreement between the CNMI and the EPA and provides a roadmap for improved water and sewer services in the CNMI.

Stipulated Order I requires CUC to create a new management and financial structure of all aspects of CUC's operations. It is related to CUC's inadequacy of providing potable drinking water and wastewater services.

Stipulated Order II involves

the lack of infrastructure for safe fuel storage, handling and transfer facilities of the power generation facilities, and power distribution, including possible environmental site cleanup.

CUC has been under a state of emergency since August 2008. The declaration has allowed the governor to suspend procurement regulations for the utilities firm so it could cope with emergency needs, among other things. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has been extending the emergency declaration every month since then.

Rotary helps complete Russian hospital project with other Rotarians

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan showed its ability to connect with other Rotary Clubs as it collaborated with three Rotary Clubs in Taiwan to help the Rotary Club of Vladivostok Eco in Russia realize its Warm Doors Project for the Children's Municipal Hospital 3.

The Rotary Club of Saipan initially provided assistance upon hearing that dozens of young children are exposed to the cold weather due to the outdated windows at the hospital.

One of Vladivostok's oldest hospitals, the Children's Municipal Hospital 3, is an institution for orphaned young children from newborn to 4 years old, some of whom have terminal diseases and congenital conditions like HIV.

The Rotary Club of Taipei Metro East, the Rotary Club of Taipei Twins, and the Rotary Club of Taipei Grand Park, and the Rotary Club of Saipan all worked together to complete the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

1. The new reception area and two new doors are a part of the Warm Doors Project initiated by Vladivostok Eco Rotary Club in Russia and assisted by the Saipan Rotary Club and two other clubs in Taiwan to help a children's hospital and orphanage.

project last Dec. 9.

Rotarians, hospital staff led by its chief executive, and guests that included U.S. Consul General in Vladivostok Syl-

via Curran were in attendance during the turnover ceremony.

The Warm Doors Project involved the installation of new doors as well as the repair and

purchase of furniture.

Vladivostok Eco Rotary Club president Alexandr Boyarov said the project continues the assistance the Rotary Clubs have



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Consul General in Vladivostok Sylvia Curran holds a child during a tour of the Vladivostok Hospital 3 where dozens of children receive vital care while waiting for adoption or transfer to foster homes. Saipan Rotary Club helped replace furniture and equipment here as part of its international programs.

provided the hospital.

Boyarov said some of the improvements made this year were the installation of seven new doors, a reception desk, more insulation to protect against the cold, purchase of cushioned furniture, and repair of a hospital hall section.

According to Boyarov, foreign visitors have established

close relations with the hospital administration, as exhibited by the adoption of 100 children by American families.

"Our club is very thankful to you for your participation in this international project and we hope to continue our cooperation and we are always ready for our next mutual projects," said Boyarov.

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

AMENDED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday January 12, 2011 at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan to consider an emergency petition, which was filed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation on December 30, 2010 for an immediate increase in its current LEAC rate.

Under the LEAC tariff, which was established by Commission order on December 19, 2008, the Commission conducts a semi-annual review of the projected fuel expenses, which CUC will incur in order to operate its generating plants. Based on these reviews, the Commission establishes a LEAC charge for the following six month period, which is intended to create a dedicated revenue stream to fund these projected expenses. The LEAC tariff provides that in the event projected fuel expenses should exceed those funded under a current LEAC rate by \$350,000, CUC may petition for expedited interim rate relief. In its current petition, CUC asserts that due to an unforeseen increase in fuel prices, the current LEAC rate of \$0.24446 per kWh will underfund fuel expenses in the current period [October 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011] by over two million dollars. Accordingly, CUC requests that the current rate be increased immediately to \$0.26688 per kWh. CUC recognizes in its petition that any such partial and immediate relief would be subject to later true-up and, as appropriate, refund. On January 7, 2011, the Commission's independent regulatory consultant [Georgetown] will file its report on the CUC emergency petition. The CUC petition and the Georgetown report will be posted on the Chamber's website for public access. These documents will also be available for public review at the Chamber's office.

Public attendance and participation [including comments and questions] at this special Commission business meeting will be welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to this single item agenda will also be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the one item agenda should be referred to Commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP11-DPW-023
Submission: January 27, 2011 Time: 2:00 P.M.

"A&E CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR ARRA ENERGY PROJECTS"

The complete scope of work will be available on **December 28, 2010** at the Office of the CNMI ARRA State Lead, Third (3rd) Floor, Marianas Business Plaza #315, Susupe, Saipan.

A **Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** is scheduled for **9:00 A.M., local time** at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **January 13, 2011**.

Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via e-mail to alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp or faxed to (670) 234-3016 no later than **4:30P.M., local time, January 18, 2011**.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public law 15-95 local preference act, as further amended by Public Law 15-118, does not apply to this federally funded project.

This project is funded by the American Recovery and Re-investment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
CNMI ARRA State Lead

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP11-DEQ-039
Submission: February 09, 2011 Time: 2:00 P.M.

**"SAIPAN STORMWATER QUALITY SAMPLING AND WATERSHED
BOUNDARY DELINEATION FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"**

The complete scope of work will be available at the DEQ front desk or can be received electronically by contacting the CRM Nonpoint Source Pollution Coordinator at (670) 664-8305, or by emailing rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp

Questions regarding this project may be faxed to Mr. Frank M. Rabauliman at (670) 664-8540 no later than the close of business, **January 27, 2011**.

This is a federally funded project, as such, local preference **is not available** because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAU LIMAN
Director, DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Manager of defunct remittance center seeks sentencing delay

A former remittance center manager who had pleaded guilty to charges of conspiring to defraud a Philippine bank of \$109,855 asked the federal court yesterday to delay her sentencing.

The sentencing of Armilaine Salamat is scheduled on Friday but she asked that it be moved to a later date since the trial date of her co-defendant, Ana Maria V. Villegas, remains unknown at this time.

Loren Sutton, counsel for Salamat, said his client is a co-operating witness for the U.S. government in this case.

Sutton said the status conference for Ana Villegas is set for Feb. 11, 2011. He said the court may prefer to take Salamat's sentencing off-calendar until Villegas' trial date is known.

Salamat pleaded guilty in June 2010 to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud.

The indictment also charged Ana Maria V. Villegas, a co-owner of the former Philippine

Express Remittance, with one count of conspiracy, and two counts of wire fraud.

According to the indictment, the scheme to defraud began in 2004 when Ana Villegas, then a co-owner of Philippine Express Remittance, began passing checks drawn on insufficient funds at PNB Express. PNB Express was then a subsidiary of Philippine National Bank. At that time, Salamat was the manager of PNB Express.

Despite the eventual losses from Ana Villegas' worthless checks, Salamat continued to allow Villegas to transact many worthless checks at PNB Express.

The U.S. government also indicted Haydn L. Villegas, co-owner of the former Philippine Express Remittance, for his role in the alleged conspiracy. He pleaded not guilty. His trial is on Feb. 28, 2011. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Zoning eyes public hearing on proposed changes to zoning law

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Zoning Office plans to hold within the month a special meeting and public hearing to inform and give the community a chance to comment about the

proposed text amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

Zoning administrator Douglas Wyatt said they are looking at holding the public hearing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe to accommodate more community

members.

"The text amendment discussion is coming up very quickly," Wyatt told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that legal counsel Kate Fuller is now doing a final check on the proposed amendments presented by the zoning office and

members of the board.

Wyatt said he expects improved participation from the community in discussing the proposed amendments compared to previous discussions.

"The discussions were not as well-organized at that time. This time, we plan to advertise it in the paper, publish the proposed amendments on our website for comments, and hold public meetings," he said.

Board secretary Edward Arri-

ola, Jr. disclosed that the zoning law is "text-heavy" so they plan to come up with educational leaflets that contains simplified version of various permit application processes.

"These will be quick-read versions and very much easy to understand to facilitate the application process for different types of businesses," said Arriola.

Wyatt added that with the discussion of proposed amend-

ments comes the discussion of making the necessary zoning boundary changes.

In other news, the zoning board unanimously voted on Thursday night to approve the conditional use application of the Mercederian Missionaries of Berriz.

The Mercederian Missionaries of Berriz requested to build an institutionalized housing within the new Maturana House of Prayer in the Navy Hill area.



RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS

Prince the Magician shows an empty wooden prop to his audience during the annual Russian-style Christmas party hosted by the Pacific Islands Club at its Magellan Restaurant Friday night. The Russian Christmas is based on the Orthodox Church calendar.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Outreach aims to educate veterans of their benefits

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Veterans on Saipan will have a chance to know more about their federal benefits through an outreach activity slated for Jan. 12 to 13.

Tina San Augustine, legal administrative for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Guam, will be on island to conduct the Veterans Outreach on Veterans Federal Benefits.

The activity will be held at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs, Building 1363 in Capital Hill from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Staff Bernie Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* that the outreach, the first for the new year, aims to assist veterans as well as enlisted military personnel and their families about their benefits.

"It's open to anybody who needs help," Dela Cruz added.

She said San Augustine will be on Saipan after she finishes the

last day of veterans outreach on Tinian, which is today.

Depending on the need, Dela Cruz said they are looking at conducting the veterans outreach every month from the previous quarterly schedule.

According to Dela Cruz, over 20 have set up appointments for the outreach but they would accept walk-in participants on both days.

For more information, call 664-2650 or 51.

JKPL seeks \$5K grant for Rota library

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, through the CNMI Library Council, applied for a \$5,000 grant with the TakeCare Foundation to purchase educational materials for the soon-to-open Rota Public Library.

TakeCare Foundation aims to enhance the health, wellness, and welfare of communities to which it belongs by donating to charitable and educational causes through contributions from the management and employees.

The "Just Keeping People Literate for Rota Project" grant application for the library facility situated in Tatachog, Rota was submitted on Dec. 30.

Executive director John Oliver DLR Gonzales said the grant amount will be used to

purchase informational and multimedia educational materials for the library's collections.

"We aim to acquire mostly educational and reference materials for our public and private school aged children and youth to supplement their required lessons beyond the classroom," he said in the grant application letter.

According to Gonzales, the CNMI's state public library and the Library Council have intensified their efforts to open the Rota Public Library after the Office of the Rota Mayor formally expressed its commitment to open, improve, and maintain the library.

Gonzales said he received the letter from Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola on Dec. 13.

The executive director said the Rota community, particularly the elementary, junior high and high

school students, had been underserved since it does not have access to a public library.

If awarded the grant, Gonzales said it will help convince the Rota leadership to develop and coordinate a sustainable plan to prioritize and operate a functional public library that would meet the learning needs of the island community.

He said the grant approval will also inspire meaningful partnerships and collaborations with the public and private sectors on island and the rest of Micronesia.

Another local organization, the Commonwealth Cancer Association, also applied for the same grant last month.

TakeCare will notify the applicant about their application status by late June based on the grant guidelines.

Auction of all Remaining Inventory and Equipment

When: 10:30AM Friday 14 January

Where: Sablan Enterprises, Inc
Hardware Warehouse in Chalan Piao Across from Tapo Shopping.

All Remaining Inventory and Equipment as of Close of Business Wednesday, 12 January will be Auctioned off on Friday.

Buy Now. Wednesday will be the Last Business Day until the Auction.

Thursday 13 January – Remaining Inventory & Equipment will be Available for Inspection up and thru the Auction on Friday.

All items will be Sold In Lots of Classification:

All Plumbing Items will Be One Lot. All Electrical items will Be One Lot. All General Hardware will be One Lot.

ELECTRICAL

- Meter/Breaker Combination Boxes
- Safety ON&OFF Switch Boxes
- 4x4 Utility Boxes
- Single Toggle Light Switches and more.....

GENERAL HARDWARE ITEMS

- Monier Tegula Roof Tiles
- Metal Drill Bits
- Triangle Metal Files
- Cabinet Pull Handles
- Concrete Nails
- Duplex Nails
- Finishing Nails and more.....

EQUIPMENT

- Concrete Block Production Machine
- Ripping Machine
- Aluminum Beds
- Back-Hoe
- PayLoader
- Dump Truck
- Air Compressor

PLUMBING

- PVC Fittings
- ABS Fittings
- PVC and Brass Gate Valves
- Lavatory Porcelain Sinks and more.....

Auction begins 10:30AM Friday January 14, 2011
Call Conrad Sablan, Jr. 234-2585/ 235-9020/ 888-8948 for Inventory List.
Email Address: conradsblan@gmail.com

All sales final. Cash, company checks or credit card only. Immediate payment after successful bid.

Located in Chalan Piao Across from Tapo Shopping.



**SABLAN
ENTERPRISES, INC.**

Guam fishermen's risk of drowning more than doubles after enforcement of MPAs

For fishermen in Guam who have traditionally fished inshore, a major concern is the loss of accessible fishing grounds caused in part by the establishment of five marine preserve areas, or MPAs, in 1997. Fishermen have reported that the MPAs have displaced them from traditional fishing grounds, prevent them from teaching fishing techniques in a safe environment to the younger generation and impact the future of their local culture.

Now a report released by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, provides concrete evidence on how dangerous fishing has become for the indigenous Chamorro fishermen since fishing restrictions in the MPAs at Tumon Bay, Piti Bomb Holes, Sasa Bay, Achang Reef Flat and

Pati have been enforced.

"The major finding is that, for Chamorro fishermen, the risk of drowning more than doubled after MPAs were enforced in 2001," note authors Devin L. Lucas, and Jennifer M. Lincoln, PhD. On the other hand, non-Chamorro fishermen experienced a sharp decrease in the risk of drowning after MPAs were established.

ON THE NET

For copy of the report: www.wpcouncil.org/news
Guam's MPAs: <http://www.guamdawr.org/aquatics/mpa>.

The NIOSH report "The Impact of Marine Preserve Areas on the Safety of Fishermen of Guam" also found that the proportion of drowning deaths to Chamorro fishermen that occurred on the east coast (in more hazardous waters) increased from 20 percent during 1986-2000 to 63 percent during 2001-2009.

The report concludes: "Before the MPAs were established, Guam residents fished primarily in the protected areas of the western (leeward side) and southern coasts. Non-Chamorro fishermen were predominately recreational users, while Chamorro fishermen were more likely to subsist on the resource. As MPAs were established and enforced, the traditional and popular fishing grounds on the west coast and southern tip of the island were restricted. Non-Chamorro recreational fishermen most likely scaled back their fishing activities since few accessible, safe area remained open. At the same time, Chamorro subsistence fishermen began fishing

more heavily on the east coast (windward side of the island). That increased exposure to more hazardous conditions resulted in higher risk of drowning."

For a copy of the report, which was prepared by the NIOSH for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, go to www.wpcouncil.org/news. For more on Guam's MPAs, go to <http://www.guamdawr.org/aquatics/mpa>.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council was created by Congress in 1976 and is authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to manage fisheries in federal waters surrounding Guam, Hawaii, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island and the US Pacific remote island areas. (PR)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

John Gonzales LIVE airs Wednesday (Jan. 12) and rebroadcast on Sunday (Jan. 16) and Monday (Jan. 17), from 7-8 pm on Channel 2. Text 285-META (6382), email johngonzales@pticom.com, or call 287-4230 for your question or comment.

Topic: Open Ocean Cage Culture (OCC), NMC-CREES' and WestPac's role in a possible development of OCC in the CNMI, and the upcoming 2011 OCC Symposium

Guests: Michael Ogo (CREES), Jack Ogumoro (WestPac), and representative of CNMI Aquaculture Producers Association

CUC phone lines on the blink

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is currently experiencing technical problems with its main telephone lines (235-7025 through 235-7032). The power supply serving the main telephone system has malfunctioned, causing the system to shut down. The system vendor is currently working on correcting the problem. The CUC Trouble Desk telephone lines 235-0282/2282 are unaffected. We apologize for any inconvenience that this problem may cause. (CUC)



PACIFIC BRIEFS

Rapa Nui fire threatens national park

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Reports from Easter Island say fire has destroyed about 65 hectares of bush in a National Park area. The Chilean newspaper, La Tercera, says the blaze in the Puna Pau are affected at least five historical monuments, known as moai. Officials say there has been very little rain in recent times and winds fuelled the fire on the dry slopes. It is not known what caused the fire. There are no reports of damage to buildings.

Vanuatu offers aid to flood ravaged Australia

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—In Australia, Queensland flood victims have been offered aid from an unlikely source, the little South Pacific nation of Vanuatu that's normally the recipient itself of much-needed overseas aid. Port Vila businessman, Bryan Death and his partner Val have just spent 10 days in Queensland and on their return to Port Vila this week emailed fellow tourism promoters and other business colleagues and associates, friends, and everyone they could think of from government officials to church groups, telling them of the heartbreak they'd seen in Queensland. "Within 24 hours we've been offered a shipping container and free shipping, and instant offers of food, clothing, toys and household goods from the Australian and Chinese expatriate communities and service clubs. We're hoping to see our container filled and on its way within the next week."

Fiji's Viti Levu hit with major flooding

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI)—There has been flooding in low lying areas of Fiji's Viti Levu island. Parts of Tavua and Ba are underwater, forcing the closure of some roads. Drivers are being advised to be careful and aware at all times while parents have been told to be vigilant and take note on the whereabouts of their children. Wet conditions are expected to continue.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 11, 1999

Lack of funds delays diabetes center

It has been five months since the bill calling for the establishment of a diabetes center was passed into law, yet the local government still hasn't come up with the facility's proposed \$300,000 budget. The Diabetes Control Act, or Public Law 11-31, went into effect in August of last year. But up to now, diabetics have yet to hear a word when the facility will be built. The Act mandates that a Diabetes Care and Control Center with an annual budget of \$300,000 be established as a new section under the Division of Public Health.

Legislature faces 26.8 percent budget cut

Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives may take a hefty 26.8 percent reduction from the budget allocated for the second quarter of the fiscal year, nearly double the average cut given to various departments and agencies. The Department of Finance has informed legislators the cutback - which it has pegged at 18.3 percent - is in line with the decline in actual revenue collections in the last three months initially projected at 13.4 percent. But the department has set aside an amount equivalent to just 90 percent of the allotted budget, according Rep. Karl T. Reyes, chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

Jan. 11, 2000

Youth leaders seek term limit extension

It would have stirred a controversy had the proposal come from the islands' elected officials but it does not seem a big deal when it was offered by leaders of the 2nd Youth Congress. Young legislators are seeking to extend their one-year term limit, which they intend to discuss during the second regular session of the CNMI Youth Congress on Saturday. Speaker Angel Demapan said that aside from the extension of their current one-year term, the Youth Congress will also work at increasing the present quarterly sessions. The speaker said one key issue that will be discussed during the second regular session of the youth legislative body would be the minimum and maximum age limit of those who may serve in the Youth Congress.

Eco-tourism dev't on Rota gets boost from MVA

In a move to assist in the development of eco-tourism in Rota, the Marianas Visitors Authority will look for funds to facilitate the implementation of infrastructure projects on the island-municipality. MVA board members met with Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona recently to discuss various tourism sites that need immediate repair. Nine projects amounting to \$2.7 million have been identified by MVA, namely Swimming Hole, Taga Quarry, Bird Sanctuary, Ginalangan Command, Sabana Peace Marker, Pona Cliff Park, Tonga Cave, Tweeks Beach, and Guata Beach. A hiking trail from the village, which leads to the top of the mountain known as Sabana, is being eyed as a priority project since it is popular among Japanese tourists.

Jan. 11, 2001

Students taking financial obligation more seriously

With stricter registration terms in effect, the Northern Marianas College Admission and Records has been encountering lesser snags in the enrollment process, which indicated that students are taking their financial obligations to the college more seriously. Students listed under the "on hold" roster due to unsettled bills are informed by their advisors beforehand of their status before they transact with the Admissions and Records for a final assessment. "Students now are more aware. They know that if their records show they are on hold due to uncleared obligations that they will not be able to register," said Acting Admissions and Records Director Cyndi Deleon Guerrero during the first day of registration yesterday.

NMHC asks banks to offer mortgage loans

In fresh attempts to improve access of CNMI residents to home ownership, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation is trying to encourage the participation of two private banks in the institution's mortgage lending program. Executive Director Marylou S. Ada said the housing corporation has been in discussion with First Hawaiian Bank and the Union Bank of California for a possible Memorandum of Agreement that will tie them to NMHC's mortgage lending program. The government-owned housing firm has joined hands with BankPacific, Bank of Guam and Bank of Hawaii in making mortgage financing available to local residents who have expressed interest in owning a housing unit.

Can you identify?

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Saipan Tribune, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.



No one identified last November 2, 2010's photo.

Over 350 students register on 1st day of NMC enrollment

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than 350 students showed up and registered at the Northern Marianas College during the first day of its weeklong enrollment period for the spring semester 2011. The total was as of 4pm yesterday, according to the college's records.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune*, the college said it expects the number to increase in the next five registration days.

In the spring semester of 2010, NMC registered 909 enrollees. Last fall semester, the college had 1,218.

"This is the first day of general registration so the figure is expected to increase. There are still five more days, including Saturday, left to register," the college said.

According to Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, NMC used for the first time a new system for enrollment called PowerCampus ID number, which is a unique number assigned to each student when they enroll at



An Office of Admission and Records staff assists a student register for the spring semester at the Northern Marianas College.

the college.

"This is done to provide more senior students—generally students with more credits—an opportunity to register earlier during the week," explained

Pangelinan, adding that the registration schedule has been posted on the college's website and printed in newspapers. The same schedule was also mailed to students to ensure they get the

information on time.

Pangelinan said the "new registration schedule also allows NMC to even out the number of students registering everyday this week, as opposed to having most students registering on one day alone."

He described yesterday's registration opening as smooth.

"Registration of classes went smoothly in general today, thanks to our hardworking NMC employees and student volunteers. It seems that changes we instituted are working to ensure that students are registering in a more efficient manner. Of course, we are always looking for other ways to improve the registration process," said Pangelinan.

Applications for admission to the college will still be accepted until the end of

this week, provided that both placement tests have been taken. Students may register between 9am and 6pm, Monday through Friday, and between 9am and 12 pm on Saturday.

The college encourages anyone who is interested in enrolling for the spring 2011 semester to visit the college's website at www.nmcnet.edu for more information.

NMC, which is currently on extended show-cause status, has already submitted its reports to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The association will decide the fate of the college's accreditation after this month's commission's assembly. The show-cause order was prompted by concerns about NMC's leadership, governance, and financial stability.

NMC spring 2011 registration ongoing this week

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's spring 2011 semester will be ongoing this week until Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice,

and hospitality management. It also offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

New students are required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. After taking the placement tests, students can obtain the required slip from the English and Math departments and meet with their academic advisers. NMC academic advisers will help new students fill in registration forms and create class schedules. Students can then finish the registration process in NMC's Room D-1.

Application for admissions

will still be accepted until Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, provided that both placement tests have been taken.

Ongoing students must clear any outstanding balances at the Finance Office, the NMC Library and/or Office of Admissions and Records before they can register for classes. To find out if any balances exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 234-5498 ext. 1528/1537.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Spring 2011 semester, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

- Jan. 10: Registration for students with PC # 000000100 through 000010350
- Jan. 11: Registration for students with PC # 000010351 through 000013150
- Jan. 12: Registration for students with PC # 000013151 through 000014950
- Jan. 13: Registration for all new, ongoing, and readmitted students
- Jan. 14: Registration for all new, ongoing, and readmitted students
- Jan. 15: Late Registration

English Placement Test Schedule:

- Jan. 10-12: 9am – 3pm, Building M
- Jan. 13: 9am – 3pm Building M
- Jan. 14: 9am – 3pm Building M

Math Placement Test Schedule:

- Jan. 11: 10am – 12pm, Room A-7
- Jan. 12: 5pm – 7pm, Room A-7
- Jan. 13: 10am – 12pm, Room A-7
- Jan. 14: 5pm – 7pm Room A-7

NMC hires new human services instructor

The Northern Marianas College recently hired Jose Herrera to work as a human services instructor at the School of Education.

NMC's School of Education offers a bachelor's degree in education with concentrations in early childhood education,

elementary education, rehabilitation and human services, and special education.

"We are delighted to welcome Jose to NMC," said acting interim president Barbara Merfalen. "His educational background, coupled with his experience in the field, will

prove beneficial to the School of Education."

Before starting out at NMC, Herrera worked as a coordinator of special services for the Tarrant County College District in Texas, performing such tasks as academic advising and student counseling. Prior to working for Tarrant County College District, Herrera also worked as an academic advisor for the Southwestern Community College at Iowa, where he coordinated and advised students with special needs.

In addition, Herrera served the state of Washington as a social worker, providing family crisis counseling and foster care supervision. He also worked as a school counselor for the Union Gap School District, the Wahluke School District, and the Renville School District.

"I am excited to be working as an instructor for the School of Education," said Herrera. "I feel that my extensive background in human services will serve as an asset to the students who choose to work in this field."

Herrera received his bachelor's degree from Warner Pacific College and his master's degree from Heritage University. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree from North Central University. (NMC)



Jose Herrera is the new human services instructor at the School of Education.

First HIV/AIDS case in Cooks spurs sex education

» Identity of individual who tested positive kept confidential

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Cook Islands Health Minister says public health officials are working on a sex education program to protect the public following the first positive test for HIV in the country.

The government has decided not to identify the HIV positive person after initially seeking legal advice on the issue.

Health Minister Nandi Glassie says concerns about public safety had been raised but he has been advised that confidentiality is extremely important.

However, Glassie says the threat to public safety remains, and notices have been issued through the media about the risks of unsafe sex.

"Because this is the first ever case in the Cook Islands, we

have a very clean record in this area so that's why public health is giving out an educational and awareness programme so that the public is fully informed on this particular case and we want to make sure that the HIV doesn't spread so as to preserve our good image."

Glassie says people considering being tested for HIV can be assured they will not be identified.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Jun T. Santos, center, who is celebrating his special day today, Jan. 11, 2011. We wish you good health and more birthdays to come. Greetings come from your sons, Xavier, left, and Josh Santos, right.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Coming soon to a pump near you: Gas at \$5 a gallon

Good news: With recession loosening its grip, about 1.1 million more Americans bought new cars last year than in 2009.

Not only did sales pick up, more Americans opted for bigger vehicles. Sales of midsize SUVs like Jeep Grand Cherokees and Honda Pilots jumped 41 percent during the first 11 months of the year.

That increase came at the expense of smaller economy cars, whose sales remained flat in 2010. Sales of some models like the Honda Civic and the Toyota Corolla actually declined.

Bad news: The former head of Shell Oil told an industry publication last month that he expects gas to hit \$5 a gallon in 2012.

John Hofmeister, a former Shell Oil CEO, told Platts Energy Week last month that prices would be pushed higher by increasing global demand and "inadequate responses by the federal government."

It's no surprise that Mr. Hofmeister, a former board member for the industry trade group the American Petroleum Institute, would favor more aggressive oil drilling.

But that doesn't mean he's wrong about the direction of gasoline prices.

It also doesn't mean he's right about \$5-a-gallon gas in 2012.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration, an independent agency that analyzes trends for the federal government, predicts a somewhat more modest increase. It forecasts gas prices averaging about \$2.67 a gallon in 2012, up 14 percent over 2009 prices but still well shy of \$5.

In fact, the EIA predicts gasoline prices below \$4 a gallon all the way until 2035.

In part, the lower prices result from the agency's forecasts of an 8 percent increase in domestic oil production by 2012, compared to an increase in demand for gas of just about 2 percent.

But the trend is clear: long-term increases in gasoline prices and, indeed, in all energy prices.

That may be bad news for many of the consumers who bought SUVs this year.

Many of the popular midsize models that sold well in 2010 get less than 20 miles per gallon. In contrast, many of the economy cars whose sales were flat or falling average more than 30.

That brings us back to Mr. Hofmeister and his contention that an "inadequate response" by the federal government is driving prices higher.

He predicted little or no new deep-water drilling in the Gulf of Mexico because of tighter federal regulation in response to the BP oil spill.

"When American consumers are short (of gasoline) or prices are so high—\$5 a gallon for gasoline, for example, by 2012—that's going to set a new tone," he said.

Tighter regulation is an appropriate response to the BP spill, which demonstrated the continuing inability of oil companies to respond quickly to blowouts in deep-water wells.

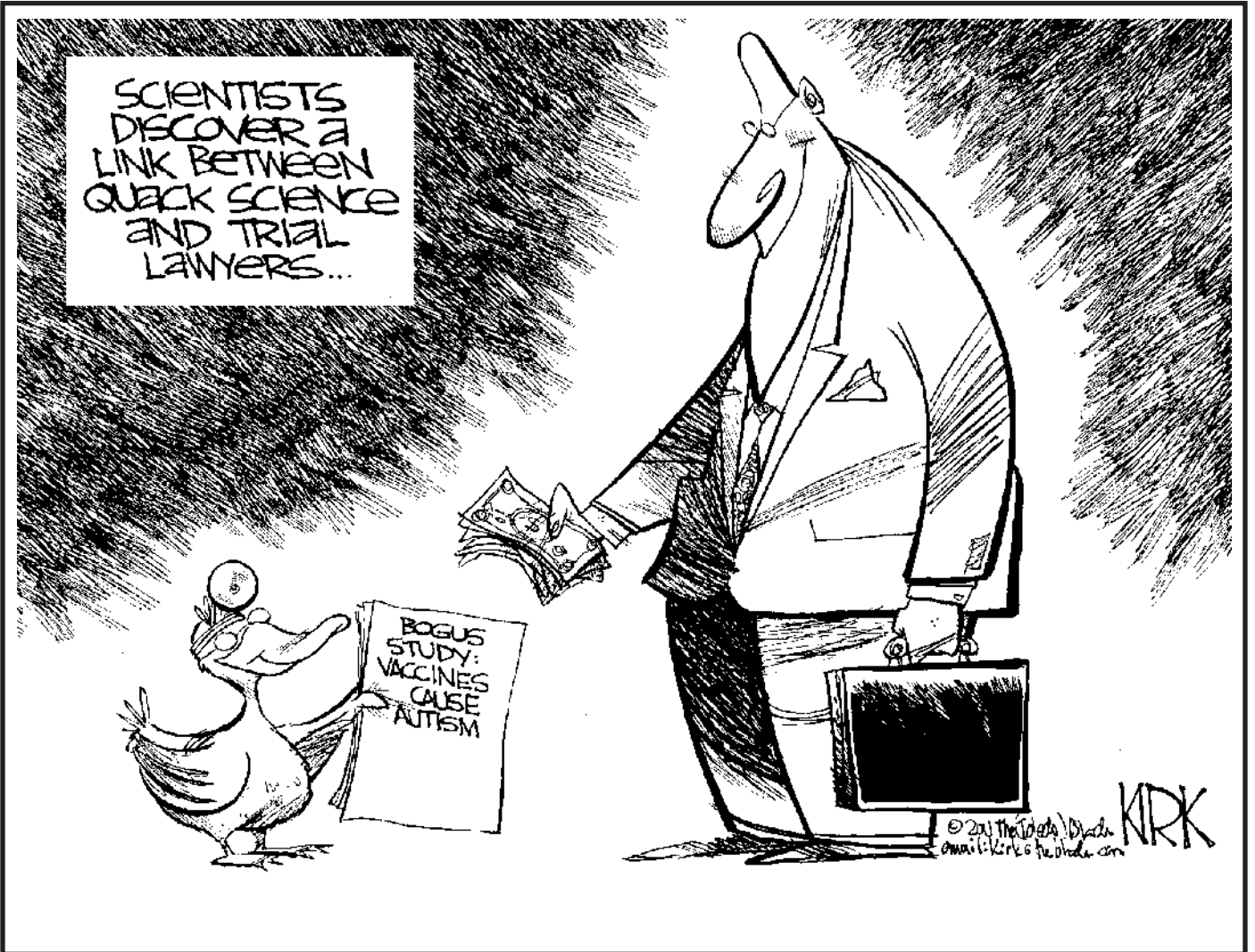
But what's really driving energy prices is global demand. We can't drill our way around that, no matter how recklessly we try.

Between 1990 and 2020, world energy consumption is expected to grow by about 66 percent. U.S. energy consumption, in contrast, is forecast to grow by less than half of 1 percent.

Chinese energy consumption will grow by 56 percent. India, too, will be consuming more energy.

We're not being critical of consumers who opted for SUVs over economy cars. But such choices have consequences. And American consumers aren't the only ones making them.

(c) 2011, St. Louis Post-Dispatch



Of mice and mighty men

My brother is chaplain to the FBI and the Honolulu Police department. He likes wearing the uniforms of both and procured clothing for siblings and nephews. A son was in the Navy and two nephews trained to be grunts, serving tour of duties in the Middle East.

My FBI shirt is the real thing and not the "Female Body Inspector" sold in Garapan. My USMC cutoff shirt gets favorable nods on the pathway when we go footloose and fancy-free. Both shirts get noticeable deference from natives and vets. Something about being identified as being in the uniformed services elicit automatic respect not normally given.

One nephew reenlisted as a recruiter and jokingly gave me a shirt if I would not show up protesting his recruiting station at Berkeley! Not that I have ever picketed a recruitment office, but as one of my daughters had once commented when she was 10 (she's now in her 30s): "Dad will never retire, only gets a new set of tires, and he will die crossing Roxas Blvd. in a downpour, protesting U.S. policy in the exploitation of natural resources in the South China Sea at Manila's U.S. Embassy. A truck will run him over like mice, flesh and bones splattered on the pavement to draw the licking attention of city cats and dogs. He will relish such ignominious exit." That's my daughter, once accused of having too wild and oh so vivid an imagination.

I do not generally get criticized for what I write about (more on how I write them). However, the paper got heavy comments about my cozying up with terrorists and commies out to undermine our way of life. Use of Eisenhower's "military-industrial complex" does not endear us to those who would like us to forget that military strategic value is the primary reason for our affiliation to the U.S. federation. Our comments during the recent mini-exchange of ordnance in the Korean peninsula while visiting Manchuria were deemed unpatriotic. Our frequent reference to the battles between Spartan discipline v. Athenian democracy that's analogous to Pentagon v. Foggy Bottom raised questions about our loyalty and the reliability of our socio-analytic prowess.

Throw in our being a citizen of the United States and the Republic of the Philippines, and that confirms suspicions that our patriotism is jaded, divided, and questionable. Philippine-born and U.S.-naturalized, by Philippine law I never lost my Philippine citizenship, though one goes through a retention rite rather than a reacquisition process.

A guard in one of our ports declared that he needed no passport to visit 20 countries in his military service; he is resolute in his conviction that dual citizens are traitors. "The U.S. does not officially recognize them, it only tolerates them" is an alarming position for a law enforcement officer. It is also untrue; the U.S. is party to 60 dual nationality types. On the eve of his retirement, he laments that he will have to apply for a passport so he can travel back to the main-

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



land, unless he goes through Guam and not descend on foreign soil! Who said Rome saw the last imperial centurion?

The militant guarding of national boundaries remains an archaic anomaly as our loyalties are increasingly defined not by ideology but on utilization of existing natural resource abiding in concerned parties' sphere of influence. Tied to fossil fuel trade, two-thirds of US\$ circulate outside the United States and the US\$ is the currency of Ecuador, East Timor, and El Salvador, also tied at par value in the Bahamas, Bermuda and Panama.

China owns 10 percent of U.S. debt papers and, given its expected economic growth, it is bailing out the current EU crises. The U.S. is alarmed over China's improving naval facilities in Hainan, right along the 7th Fleet dominated lanes, but delights in Vietnam's acquisition of six Russian diesel submarines, builds a nuke plant, and lets Russkye reconstruct the naval port in Haiphong. Yes, there is oil in the Spratleys and Paracels, contested by the U.S./Vietnam v. China. If geological formation is any telltale sign, the Ryukyus and the Marianas, and the banks of the submerged land in between, are not to be treated as worthless real estate and waters either. But what do we know?

Pentagon saber rattlers are decrying the untested stealth Chengdu J-20 as more capable than the F-22 Raptor; China's new missile capabilities threatens the U.S. naval carriers that protects our intrusions into the 12th mile off people's sovereign shores. The military jockeys for more congressional allocation for the fear-induced defense budget fueled by memories 9/11, and of the EP-3 spy plane v. J-8 jet fighter Hainan incident. Size is disproportionate to function; might as well dress the welfare state in uniform, and drill pre-schoolers on the hand salute. Rep. Frank Barney recently cried out: "Let's get our 50,000 non-combat personnel out of Iraq since the locals do not seem to recognize them as non-combatants!" Had we first marched into the Tigris and Euphrates on oilrig overalls, it would have been more honest. We might have been welcomed.

I've kept my FBI and USMC shirts in the drawer lest I be hauled in for false advertising. Military might is an illusion; bullies end up in the monkey house. It is time to think of turning our swords into plowshares, if one might be allowed that old expression. Peace.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Messy transition

I do not write this letter in any official capacity but I do draw on my professional experience and observations. I look back on 2010 and reflect on the action and inaction of the federal government and the impact on the CNMI.

I'd like to start with the statement of Congressional Intent set forth at the very beginning of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act. SEC. 701. Statement Of Congressional Intent.

(a) IMMIGRATION AND GROWTH—In recognition of the need to ensure uniform adherence to long-standing fundamental immigration policies of the United States, it is the intention of the Congress in enacting this subtitle—

(1) to ensure that effective border control procedures are implemented...with special provisions to allow for—

(A) the orderly phasing-out of the nonresident contract worker program of the Commonwealth; and

(B) the orderly phasing-in of federal responsibilities over immigration in the Commonwealth; and

(2) to minimize, to the greatest extent practicable, potential adverse economic and fiscal effects of phasing-out the Commonwealth's nonresident contract worker program and to maximize the Commonwealth's potential for future economic and business growth by—

(A) encouraging diversification and growth of the economy of the Commonwealth in accordance with fundamental values underlying federal immigration policy;

(B) recognizing local self-government, as provided for in the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union With the United States of America, through consultation with the Governor of the Commonwealth;

(C) assisting the Commonwealth in achieving a progressively higher standard of living for citizens of the Commonwealth through the provision of technical and other assistance;

(D) providing opportunities for individuals authorized to work in the United States, including citizens of the Freely Associated States; and

(E) providing a mechanism for the continued use of alien workers, to the extent those workers continue to be necessary to supple-

ment the Commonwealth's resident workforce, and to protect those workers from the potential for abuse and exploitation.

(b) AVOIDING ADVERSE EFFECTS.—In recognition of the Commonwealth's unique economic circumstances, history, and geographical location, it is the intent of the Congress that the Commonwealth be given as much flexibility as possible in maintaining existing businesses and other revenue sources, and developing new economic opportunities, consistent with the mandates of this subtitle. This subtitle, and the amendments made by this subtitle, should be implemented wherever possible to expand tourism and economic development in the Commonwealth, including aiding prospective tourists in gaining access to the Commonwealth's memorials, beaches, parks, dive sites, and other points of interest.

I begin with the "orderly phasing-out" of foreign workers. There has been nothing orderly about this process. The Federal Ombudsman's Office advised workers and employers that they no longer need to participate in the CNMI Labor process. This is not a process when considered in conjunction with the next statement of Congressional Intent that requires an "orderly phasing-in" of federal responsibility.

To date, there are no federal regulations regarding the phasing-in of a federal program for foreign workers. This failure has resulted in confusion, fear, and loss of opportunities for workers and the CNMI.

Essentially, the Federal Ombudsman's Office advised workers and employers to ignore CNMI Labor during the transition. This is hardly an "orderly" process. Transition is the changeover or conversion from one system to another. In this case there is nothing to convert to. If you phase-out of something there must be something to phase into. There is no federal process.

How does anything that the Federal Ombudsman's Office advised accomplish any of the objectives of the Congressional Intent? How do citizen workers benefit by advising foreign workers that they can work for any employer without assurance that there are no citizen workers qualified for the job?

Let us not forget that the ultimate goal of the federal legislation is to reduce foreign workers to zero. Do you really think that Congress intended to do that by granting Permanent Resident status to the foreign workers in the CNMI? Giving workers hope of becoming

Permanent Residents is at best irresponsible. It encourages desperate people, without jobs or income, to hang on as long as possible hoping for something that, at best, is unlikely and in fact highly improbable.

Consider the statement of Congressional Intent that requires the "phasing-out" in a manner to "minimize, to the greatest extent practicable, potential adverse economic and fiscal effects of phasing-out the Commonwealth's nonresident contract worker program and to maximize the Commonwealth's potential for future economic and business growth."

I can only touch on the obvious costs to the CNMI and its people brought about by this haphazard approach. First there is the loss to the CNMI of the Labor application revenue. I estimate conservatively about \$4 million. The original federal regulations required payment of a fee to the CNMI for every CW application. This loss is not easily calculated. Under the federal program (and I use that term loosely) there is no need for health exams or employer provided health care. Since CHC must continue to treat workers, most of whom earn minimum wage, it is safe to assume that the cost of that care will fall on the taxpayers of the CNMI. With no requirement of bonding or repatriation there are fewer protections for workers.

The loss of citizen jobs cannot be overlooked. Under the CNMI program there was a robust process for employer announcement of jobs available for U.S. citizens. At times there were close to 2,000 announcements posted at any given time. Today there were 22. In 2009 CNMI Labor placed more than 500 citizens in jobs. In 2010 the number was just over 100.

What is the meaning of "it is the intent of the Congress that the Commonwealth be given as much flexibility as possible in maintaining existing businesses and other revenue sources"? When the federal government came out with the investor regulations they essentially gave existing foreign investors three years. That is hardly a formula for "maintaining existing businesses." In fact, the opposite is likely true. It sends a message to foreign investors to take as much as possible and put as little as possible back in to the CNMI.

Barry Hirshbein
San Antonio, Saipan

The spirit of community

This year has been a truly tough one for many families across the CNMI. There are those that have become delinquent in their mortgages, had their cars repossessed, and those that have left our islands as a result of the current economic crisis. We can all agree that such times bring out the worst in people. This unhealthy social environment will likely give birth to domestic disputes over finances in the home and overall mistrust of others within our community at large.

I continue to remain optimistic, however, that our island culture can bring us back to prosperity. Chamorros and Carolinians alike have prospered on these islands without many earthly possessions in the past by bonding as a community. Our sense of "familia" is deeply engrained in our culture and as such can withstand whatever obstacles life decides to throw our way. I have witnessed just that these past two months. I saw people care for others even when they too are feeling the financial pinch. I witnessed individuals sacrificing their precious time to lend a hand to complete strangers. I observed people who have nothing in common bond for the sake of others. I felt the true meaning of "loving thy neighbor" this past Christmas. This in my eyes is what a community must strive for and this was just what I saw during the "Luta Cares Toy Drive."

This effort began in early November over a discussion at our dinner table. My wife, Julie Ogo Manglona, expressed her sorrow for the many families on the island of Rota that were impacted as a result of their 16-hour reduction and unpaid holidays. I am writing this letter as testament to the outstanding work and sacrifices made by many in this community to put a smile on Luta's kids. I am writing to thank you and bring you back news that your sacrifice—whether by sending toys, purchasing toys, picking up toys at different locations, and encouraging others to participate—did not go unnoticed nor unappreciated.

On Dec. 23, 2010, at approximately 5:30pm Chamorro Standard Time, all of the far-reaching work and sacrifices that were put forth finally meant something. We the volunteers of Luta Cares gift-wrapped individual toys and passed them out to Rota kids ranging from toddlers up to the age of 10. I want you to imagine us motorcading with Santa around Songsong village to give the feel of the holidays. It was a wonderful sight to see. No written word inked on this page can describe the overwhelming feeling that came upon me as I saw kids appreciate the combined effort of their numerous uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces and most especially the complete strangers that reached out during this time of need. Although most of you volunteers and donors could not be present, I assure you that the look on those children's faces was priceless. The site of numerous kids tearing up wrappers and loud cheers were rampant that day. Who would have thought that by sharing a bit of your time, you would receive this invaluable intrinsic gift? With this being said I would like to acknowledge these businesses, organizations, and individuals because they truly deserve a round of applause. I apologize

for the following long list, however as mentioned before their selfless act should not go unnoticed and most of all unrecognized:

- Amospheriq Tides Radio
- The Island Session
- Rufus Records
- Tai Ofisio Crew
- Betelnut Radio
- Rota Women in Action Association members and Estrella Mendiola
- Tan Holdings Corp. and Tan Siu Lin Foundation managements and staff
- Law Office of Jacqueline Terlaje management and staff
- Freedom Air managements and staff
- 4-H Program (NMC-CREES)
- Marianas Agupa (100.3 Radio) and host Glenn Manglona
- Rota High School National Honor Society
- N. Horiguchi, SPN
- Designs on Q (Mrs. Geneva Quitugua and Petra Quitugua)
- IT&E
- PDM Promoters, Inc.
- Congressman Greg "Kilili" and staff
- David DLG Atalig
- Frank "Kiko" Oliver
- Allison Madamba
- Christian Manzanares
- Sen. Paul Manglona
- Rep. Teresita Santos
- 13th Rota Municipal Council
- National Office Supplies
- Kobleville Youth Learning Center (Vernon and Michael Manglona)
- Rota Liason Office and Esther Basa
- Sen. Jovita Taimanao
- Sen. Juan Ayuyu
- Mount Carmel National Honor Society and Savana Manglona
- McDonalds and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ayuyu
- Rota DPS (Fire and Police)
- Isla Wahine Dancers
- Rota Mayor's Office
- Aging Office and Ms. Josepha Barcinas
- Joey Quitugua
- Christine I. Mendiola
- Angel S. Hocog
- Dean A. Manglona, Rota
- Anthony and Jessica C. Barcinas
- Tasi Taitano
- Rachel Taimanao-Ayuyu
- Jesse/Tracy Fejeran, Barrigada, GU
- Courtney Diaz, Salem, OR
- Anonymous, Pearl City, HI
- James and Aloyse Calvo, USA
- Tanya King (Board of Education Member)
- Dennis James Mendiola, Ft Leonard Wood, MO
- Frances "Kilili" Sablan, SPN
- Councilman George O. Hocog and Family
- Janora Takai, SPN
- Karen Clark, Salem, OR
- Gary, Michelle and Sierra Winters, Salem, OR
- Marisol Quintanilla, SPN
- Steve and Mercı Sablan, SPN
- Jang Kim and Hee Jung Suh, SPN
- Ethan and Taylor Mesngon-Guadamuz, Fremont, CA
- Clarence P. Tenorio, Schofield Barracks, HI
- S2 CLUB, SPN
- IN MEMORY OF NANAN BEATA, Anonymous Donor, SPN
- John and Anginette Bamba, Junction City, KS

- John and Anita Myers, GU
- Pauline and Rante Cabales, Mililani, HI
- Cris "Kuri" Ogo, Linda Koshiro, Jlynn Cepeda, Sierra Valdrez, Mama Angie Ogo and Family, Salem, OR
- JOETEN ACE HARDWARE, ROTA
- Jesse "JJ", Juanette Atalig and Children, SPN
- Brant Songsong, HI
- SOCIAL WORK STUDENT ALLIANCE(SWSA), GU
- Keilani, Brendan, Kymani(Juana and Norman Palma), USA
- Ivan "Bambi" Garces, SPN
- Angie Barcinas, OR
- Noriko Grandinetti/Lawrence Hocog, OR
- Percy Torre, OR
- Doll Boddy, OR
- Maggie, Alfra, and Victorino Mendiola, OR
- Carl Atalig/Jacoba King, OR
- Janet Ogo/Ralston Ogo/Rhonda Ogo, OR
- Donahue/Roxanne Holland, OR
- Alys Mundo, OR
- Jay Mundo/Rosie Tenorio, OR
- Bryden/Analı Taimanao, OR
- Lawrence Hocog, OR
- DJ Ck, OR
- Dr. Larry and Mrs. Matilde Hocog, SPN
- Mrs. Evelyn M. Mendiola,
- Mr. and Mrs. Romy Cinco, Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Castro, Mrs. Francisca "Nang" Barcinas, Ms. Franchesca Castro, Mrs. Cec Pratt, OR
- Ron H. Ogo
- Randall SN Taisacan
- Northern Marianas College, Rota Campus (Martin and Jennifer)
- Joeleen Aldan, SPN
- Harry A. Masga
- Lorenzo A. Barcinas
- Mary Lou Quitugua
- Isaiah Ogo, Patrick and Keanu Barcinas, Michael O. Manglona
- Nora Aldan
- Leticia Palacios
- Ed Kapileo and Patricia Ogo
- Lorenza O. Barcinas
- Vicky O. Barcinas
- Jasmine A. Ogo
- Channele and Oliver Manglona
- Keith Ogo and Charlene Manglona
- Veronica Acosta
- Nola Hix

To the numerous people and businesses listed above that helped this cause, we are forever grateful for your unselfish act. If for some reason or another we missed your name above or the newspapers omitted some names due to the length of the list, we extend our sincere apology for the oversight and thank you nonetheless.

From my wife Julie and I along with our children (Christian, Julian, Ian, Tristan and Ethan), we thank you for extending Luta's kids with gifts and making it feel as if Christmas is still alive and well. We also wish you a very prosperous and happy new year!

Talo ha Un dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase!

Ross Songao Manglona
Songsong, Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼76

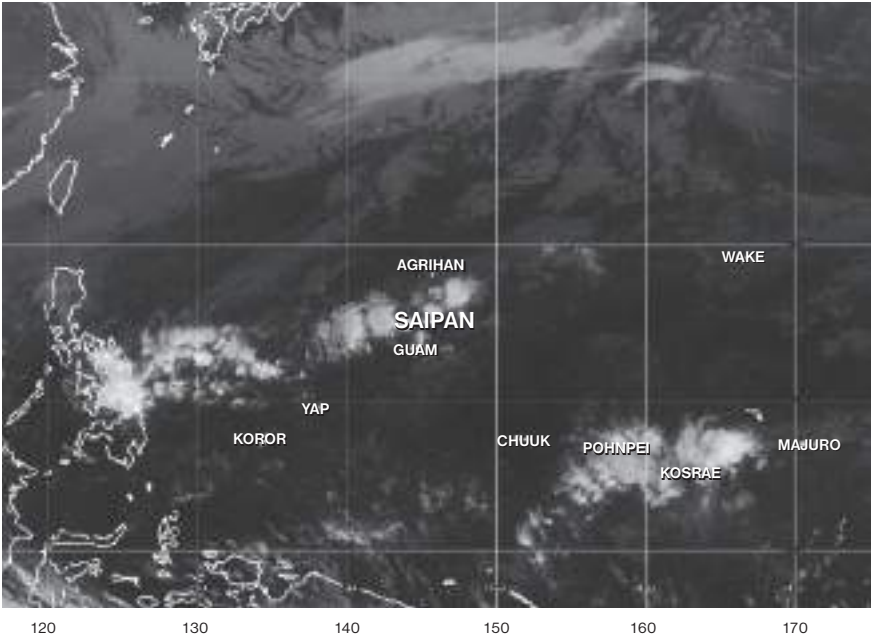
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲73 ▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲30 ▼14
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲55 ▼42
Honolulu	Sunny	▲78 ▼70
London	Rain	▲50 ▼42
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼47
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼74
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲77 ▼64
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼49
New York	Snow	▲35 ▼27
Osaka	Showers	▲45 ▼33
Paris	Rain	▲44 ▼36
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲41 ▼24
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼46
Salem	Ice	▲36 ▼34
San Francisco	Showers	▲56 ▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲29 ▼13
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲44 ▼34
Washington, DC	Snow	▲35 ▼29

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
5:38 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
12:11 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
7:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends west-southwestward from 19N180 passes over the CNMI to continue past 130E at 12N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over the Marianas along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary from 12N139E to 16N149E and north of Koror between 15N and 10N from 130E to 135E. Converging winds near a trade-wind disturbance are generating scattered showers over Kosrae and Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line curving from 3N155E to 7N160E to 7N170E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:05 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:58 AM	11:36 PM
Wednesday	11:35 AM	
Thursday	12:13 PM	12:24 AM
Friday	12:55 PM	1:14 AM
Saturday	1:42 PM	2:06 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

O P I N I O N

We need to defend ethnic studies

By YOLANDA CHAVEZ LEYVA
PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

The year has started off badly for those of us who value the teaching of history, diversity, free thought and respect for others. On Jan. 1, a law went into effect in Arizona that effectively bans ethnic studies.

This insidious law threatens true education and academic development for all students. And it intensifies the glare of contempt against minorities.

For instance, Arizona's new attorney general, Tom Horne, a major proponent of the bill, has singled out the Mexican-American studies programs of the Tucson public schools. This will only serve to make Mexican-Americans feel less welcome.

In an environment where Mexicans and Mexican-Americans are increasingly viewed as "enemies" of U.S. culture, where hate crimes against Latinos are on the rise and where

large numbers of Mexican-American students drop out of school, Mexican-American studies are more important than ever—for all students.

Mexican-American students, long denied an equal education, deserve the opportunity to learn their history and to see themselves reflected in their studies. All students deserve this. Students who are not of Mexican heritage deserve the opportunity to learn the history of the diverse peoples that make up this nation. Learning the history of others teaches mutual respect.

I have been an educator for more than 20 years, and in that time I have seen the power of learning history in the lives of thousands of my students. I have taught histories that are filled with tragedies and injustice, with oppression and pain. But they are also filled with examples of courage, of justice, of solidarity, of sacrifice for the greater good.

In my own life, a Mexican-American studies course in high school first helped me see where I fit into the history of this nation. It changed my life. It set me on a course of learning that continues to this day.

If the Arizona law had been in effect in my state at that time, I would have been deprived of this eye-opening experience. Today, tens of thousands of Arizonans may be deprived of it, too, and that's a tragedy. And tomorrow, millions more may be so deprived if other states enact similar statutes.

Laws like this rob students not only of the knowledge of where they come from but also of the skills they need to navigate the future.

Robbing from our students: That's the real crime.

Yolanda Chavez Leyva is a historian in Texas specializing in Mexican-American and border history.

Letters to the Editor

Reputation and restraint

The intriguing aspect about the CNMI is that this is the spot on earth where the ascendants and descendants of indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people call home, and had lived a life and a life sanctuary that they would live for centuries. Hence, the notion of precedence by a people has a distinct and sacred meaning where social order were understood according to social stratification and interaction that even to this day many expatriates and newcomers to these islands are baffled and awed by social events that seem to crop out without clear explanation and rational logic. Also, the indigenous people of these islands have their own languages. English is a borrowed language and it is to be expected that problems will persist as this language is not native to the indigenous people of these islands. Also, imagine how difficult and challenging at times for us to converse in perfect harmony without violations of the sanctions and the injunctions of the English language. Nonetheless, we try to communicate because that is the key, the desire to communicate. If one is so perfect as to the scholarly level that places his command of the English language at the exemplary status above the indigenous people of these islands, that is fine and we applaud them. Hence, the gist and nature of my point for your readers follow.

In the CNMI, a person's familial name traces the person's past and gives that individual a distinct identity and worthiness. In addition, the cohesiveness of the Chamorro or Carolinian family structure is recognized by its matriarchal inclination. To the surprise of the person who lacks

precedence in the CNMI, anytime that person makes a generalized derogatory conclusion that impugns the family and our mothers, the reputation of the person comes in play. The degree of sensitivity to comments that degrade the indigenous people because of their lack of formal education and even suggesting that the indigenous people of the CNMI are bottom dwellers strikes so deep in the soul that we tend to deflect it to the person who repeatedly makes such characterization (stereotyping). We are particularly sensitive to Mr. Ambrose Bennett's views as it appears that he enjoys depicting the indigenous people as irrational problem solvers of present day political dilemma. We must again remind people like Mr. Bennett that the arbiter of reputation in the CNMI is a power of public opinion that rests firmly in the minds and disposition of the indigenous people. The deal is that the so-called "governed" in the CNMI are the indigenous

Here we go again

While the speaker of the House was on one of his trips to Japan, the House and Senate passed a bill to place a referendum on the 2012 ballot for an elected attorney general. Then the speaker comes back and says that he does not like the referendum that was passed so he wants to put another referendum on the ballot. My first thought was, who does he think he is? Then I spend some time thinking about it. What would he have to gain by having two referendums on the ballots? Then, it came to me that if there were two referendums on the ballot they would

people that Mr. Bennett is fiercely shooing as undesirables.

In the language of the Chamorro people, there is a certain class of person to whom courtesy is commonly denied; they are called the "shameless ones" (*los sen betguensa*). These are people whose dishonorable reputation is established beyond all doubt. Also, the Chamorro word *butlia* is based upon the idea of ridicule, and the *butlon* is a person known as a destroyer of reputation. So, what is the point here? Well, *yana man butlia* joins the class of people on the *los sen betguensa* list. This is the reason that I suggested to Mr. Bennett for his consideration of restraint as this venture will continue to hurt his reputation in the eyes of the indigenous people. He interpreted the notion out of context. However, I will continue to help him because this is for his own good.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

split the vote, and neither one of them would pass. Then his friend the governor could keep on appointing whoever he wants to as the AG. Nice try, speaker.

New item. I have been writing about co-oping CUC for a long time now. Well, I think the time has come to make a decision about it. I will be calling for meetings in the near future. I hope that you will come out and at least hear what I have to say. Then, you will be able to make an informed decision about CUC.

Frederick Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

L O C A L

Distressed Guam swimmer rescued

TANGUISSON BEACH, GUAM—A distressed swimmer off Tanguisson Beach was safely recovered Sunday evening by Matapang Beach lifeguards.

Shortly after 5:45pm Sunday, Guam Fire Rescue 911 dispatch received a report of a male swimmer who was dragged outside the reef by the current. According to the report, the swimmer appeared to be tiring after making several unsuccessful attempts to cross the reefline back to shore through the high surf.

GFR units Rescue 1 and Rescue 2 immediately responded to the scene and notified U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, who recalled crews from Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 and Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor to respond. Concerns about the high surf and rapidly approaching darkness added to the urgency of the response.

The first responders on scene were Matapang Beach lifeguards, who were able to navigate the channel within the reef riding personal watercraft. The

lifeguards located the swimmer in distress and pulled him to safety. GFR rescue units then escorted the swimmer to shore.

The Coast Guard urges swimmers to stick with a buddy, carefully evaluate the sea conditions, and notify someone on shore about planned activities before entering the water.

Mariners are asked to make early contact with emergency officials and report all marine emergencies to the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG. (*USCG*)

USCG: All known oil products now removed from 'Big Blue'



LTJG NICOLE MURTAUGH/U.S. COAST GUARD SECTOR GUAM

Despite heavy rain over the weekend, pumping continued on Big Blue, successfully emptying the machinery space on Sunday.

APRA HARBOR, Guam—Guam Shipyard's around-the-clock dewatering operations have been successful so far. To date, about 11,000 gallons of diesel fuel and over 97,000 gallons of oily wastewater have been removed from *Big Blue*'s starboard side machinery space. With the oily wastewater removed, workers are now able to work safely in the machinery space of the drydock.

On Sunday, workers were able to safely reach the last known remaining fuel sources aboard the drydock: a lube oil tank and a sludge tank. Once the transfer lines were tested, transfers immediately began on both tanks leading to the removal of 100 gallons of lubricant oil from the lube oil tank and another 717 gallons of waste oil from the sludge tank. Now that these tanks are confirmed empty, Guam Shipyard workers are moving forward to clean the diesel engine and internal pumping equipment, which will aid in the salvage of the drydock. The whole process will include two com-

plete wash downs of all the machinery with freshwater prior to any repairs.

Activities below the water are also underway, as dive operations have begun to reestablish watertight integrity of other spaces still submerged underwater. Divers will be surveying the drydock for stability and closing manifold covers as dewatering other compartments of the *Big Blue* moves forward.

Even though all known oil products have been transferred off the drydock at this time, Coast Guard Sector Guam and the Pacific Strike Team continue to closely monitor other compartments of *Big Blue* for any signs of oil as dewatering continues.

To report any debris or signs of oil in the water around the *Big Blue* site, call the Sector Guam Command Center at (671)564-USCG. (*USCG*)

Air Force sets FDM training

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 11, 13 and 14 from 10am to 3pm.

The general public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical

mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (*USN*)

Business

Pacific Subsea VP asked to join ABS panel

American Bureau of Shipping has invited Pacific Subsea Saipan Inc. vice president Jack McClure to become a member of their Special Underwater Vehicle Technical Committee.

He will be attending their meeting at ABS headquarters in Houston, Texas on Feb. 15 to join the committee, followed by industry conference and trade show at New Orleans, Louisiana.

The industry conference and trade show "Underwater Intervention 2011" is the combined annual conference and underwater technology trade show.

"Because of your expertise we believe you can contribute significantly to the Underwater Systems and Vehicle committee. We are pleased to offer you the

position and look forward to your participation," ABS president and COO TH Gilmour said in a letter to McClure.

McClure's career in the underwater community is extensive and varied, beginning in the mid-'60s and continuing through today.

The scope of his career spans military and commercial marine programs specializing in underwater operations.

McClure was a pioneer in the development of deep saturation diving techniques used today by divers working at depths between 200 and 1,200 feet.

His involvement with submarines, submersibles, and underwater vehicles is well known in the marine community.

Early in his career McClure was se-

lected to participate in several notable projects including the Apollo Space capsule recovery program and the recognized Hughes Glomar Explorer Deep Ocean salvage project.

In addition to formal military training, McClure holds a degree in Marine Technology and maintains a Class "A" Engineering license in the state of California and is a licensed Merchant Marine Deck Officer.

Formerly employed by Ocean Systems, Union Carbide, Oceanus Inc., and Pacific Offshore Contractors Inc., McClure progressed to executive levels where he now serves on several marine corporation boards and committees.

Over the years McClure assisted

many port authorities, agencies and regulatory groups developing operational guidelines for port operations and underwater projects

McClure is currently part owner and vice president of Pacific Subsea Saipan, the largest marine tour company on Saipan. His company, a pioneer in the industry, developed tourist sub operations on Saipan and Phuket, Thailand and advised others developing similar programs worldwide.

At home in Santa Barbara, California, McClure is a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, California Avocado Society, Childhood Early Learning Program, Marine Technology Society, and Vietnam Veterans of America. (PR)



McClure

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Gadgets revealed at the annual International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas flop more often than they pop. This year's show, however, delivered many products that are bound to make a difference for years to come.

Microsoft provided a sneak peek at a radical new version of Windows, Verizon showed the first consumer gadgets for a wireless network that's faster in many cases than wired broadband, and many manufacturers showed tablet computers with the potential to give Apple's iPad a run for its money.

The show itself, the largest trade show in the Americas, was back in high form, after two lean years. A pre-show estimate put attendance at more than 126,000 people, and the crowds pointed to attendance well above that, but perhaps not as many as the 141,150 people that showed up in 2008.

Here are the can't miss developments from the show, which ended Sunday:

■ Tablets.

Touch-screen tablet computers crowded the show, as brand names large and small showed off a slew of devices meant to compete with Apple Inc.'s iPad.

From a hardware standpoint, companies touted features that the iPad doesn't yet have, such as front- and rear-facing cameras for video chatting and taking high-definition videos and the ability to operate over wireless carriers' new and forthcoming high-speed networks, together known as 4G.

As for software, the upcoming Honeycomb version of Google Inc.'s Android software seemed a popular choice. Many of the tablets unveiled—such as the Xoom from Motorola Mobility Inc.—will run Honeycomb, which is more geared toward tablets than current versions of Android, which has its roots in smart phones and their smaller screens.

Some tablets shown will run the Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 7 PC software, though. And the business-focused 4G PlayBook, which comes from BlackBerry maker Research In Motion Inc., runs RIM's own software.

■ Verizon's first consumer 4G devices.

Verizon Wireless lit up its 4G network in December, with limited coverage

What was hot at this year's Vegas gadget show



A buyer tests out Motorola's Xoom tablet at the International Consumer Electronics Show, Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011 in Las Vegas. AP

but unsurpassed data speeds. The network uses fresh, uncrowded spectrum and is designed from the ground up to carry data, resulting in connections that in many cases beat the speed of DSL lines and cable modems. (In the long run, with more people on the network, Verizon expects download speeds to average 5 to 12 megabits per second, comparable to non-premium cable modems.)

For now, only plug-in laptop modems can take advantage of it, but at the show, Verizon showed off smart phones from Motorola, LG Electronics Inc., HTC Corp. and Samsung Electronics Co. set to arrive in the first half of year, along with two tablets.

However, Verizon promptly stole its own thunder by inviting journalists to a second press conference on Tuesday in New York, less than a week after its big reveal in Las Vegas. It's widely believed that Verizon will announce that it will start selling Apple Inc.'s iPhone, now available in the U.S. exclusively through rival AT&T Inc. The Wall

Street Journal reported on Friday that this is the case.

AT&T is building its own 4G network, and plans to have it up and running this summer. In the meantime, it indicated at the show that it's starting to call its 3G network "4G."

■ Windows running on cell phone chips.

The computers looked half-finished, with exposed components, and ran what looked like plain vanilla Windows 7. Under the hood, though, these computers had components that signal a seismic shift for Microsoft and the PC industry.

Instead of running on processors from Intel Corp. or Advanced Micro Devices Inc., the mainstays of Windows PCs for three decades, these computers were running on cell-phone-style chips based on designs from ARM Holdings PLC. That could mean laptops and tablets with longer battery lives, and give Windows a better chance of gaining a foothold in the

emerging world of tablet computers.

Apple Inc.'s hit iPad tablet runs on an ARM-based chip, which is part of the reason it can last 10 hours on one charge. Microsoft didn't say when an ARM-based version of Windows might be available, but indicated that it's at least a year away.

■ Intel and AMD strike back.

Intel and AMD, whose processors are the "brains" of PCs, unveiled new chips with significant design changes, in part to help them hold off threats from tablets and smart phones. The idea is to make traditional, low-cost computers using their chips more competitive with the mobile devices.

The new designs promise to make computers better at doing graphics-intensive tasks and playing video. Intel and AMD are doing this by putting graphics capabilities, historically handled by a separate chip, on the same silicon as the computer's main, general-purpose processor. That means data move more quickly.

An added benefit is longer battery life, an important quality if these chips are to be competitive with those used in tablets. With the functions on the same chip, the power the parts need to talk to each other is reduced.

■ 3-D TVs with cinema glasses.

Last year's big new thing in TVs, 3-D, didn't catch on as manufacturers had hoped. One problem might be the bulky, expensive, battery-powered glasses the sets need. This year, LG Electronics Inc. is trying a different take on 3-D, with light, inexpensive glasses of the kind used in movie theaters.

Vizio Inc. already sells one such set, and Samsung Electronics Co. said it was working on similar technology. In LG's and Vizio's version of the technology, the screen resolution is halved, but not everyone will notice. The flickering effect sometimes produced by the battery-powered glasses is missing, and the lighter glasses also don't darken the image as much.

■ Free TV on the go.

TV broadcasters are adding signals to their towers that are designed to be picked up by portable gadgets such as small TVs, laptops and cell phones.

It's unclear how interested the public will be in this technology. An earlier attempt at broadcasting subscription-based TV signals to gadgets failed for lack of interest. But gadget makers including Audivo and LG are forging ahead, providing consumers with an array of "Mobile DTV" gadgets this year. They range from portable TV sets to plug-in antennas for the iPad.

A big obstacle for the technology is that cell phone carriers aren't interested in selling phones with Mobile DTV receivers.

■ High-speed color printing.

It's not often that a new printing technology comes along. After all, both inkjet and laser printing have been with us for decades. Now, a startup called Memjet promises a significant twist on inkjet printing. The technology allows a desktop printer to spit out one page per second in color, at low cost.

Instead of having a print head that moves back and forth across the page, it has a head that's stationary and spans the whole page. The printer should be on the U.S. market this year through an undisclosed partner, priced around \$600.

Nation

Authorities charge man, 22, with assassination try

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Authorities on Sunday charged a 22-year-old man described as a pot-smoking loner with trying to assassinate Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and killing others at a political event, revealing that he had scrawled on an envelope the words “my assassination” and “Giffords.”

The discoveries at his home in southern Arizona, however, provided few answers to a shocked nation, from the victims of Saturday’s shooting rampage to lawmakers worried about their safety: What motivated the rampage outside a supermarket that killed six and injured 14?

Giffords, 40, lay in intensive care at a Tucson hospital, after being shot in the head at close range. Doctors said she had responded repeatedly to commands to stick out her two fingers, giving them hope she may survive.

Court papers filed with the charges against Jared Loughner said he had previous contact with the Democratic lawmaker. The

documents said he had received a letter from Giffords in which she thanked him for attending a “Congress on your Corner” event at a mall in Tucson in 2007.

Investigators carrying out a search warrant at his parents’ home in a middle-class neighborhood found an envelope in a safe with the words “I planned ahead,” “My assassination” and the name “Giffords” next to what appears to be Loughner’s signature.

An official familiar with the Arizona shooting investigation said Sunday that local authorities are looking at a possible connection between Loughner and an online group known for white supremacist, anti-immigrant rhetoric.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation, said local authorities were examining the American Renaissance website for possible motives.

The group’s leaders said in a posting on their website that Loughner never subscribed to



Emergency personnel and Daniel Hernandez, an intern for U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, second right, move Giffords after she was shot in the head outside a shopping center in Tucson, Ariz. on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011.

Congresswoman’s intern stanch blood from gunshot

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—A 20-year-old intern to U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords said Sunday he used his hands to apply pressure to a gunshot wound to her head while holding her in his lap. A 61-year-old Tucson woman grabbed the magazine from the gunman, and two men tackled him.

All four are being hailed as heroes in the shooting that killed six and gravely injured the lawmaker during an event at a Tucson grocery store. The sheriff said the woman, Patricia Maisch, likely saved dozens of lives.

“We could have had 31 more people shot,” Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik said.

Maisch was waiting in line with her husband to get a photo with Giffords at the meet-and-greet on Saturday morning.

Two men tackled the suspect—they were identified as Roger Sulzgeber, who was also in line, and Joseph Zimud-

ie, who was at a nearby Walgreens and heard the shooting. The shooter reached for a magazine as he struggled with the men, Maisch said.

“Somebody said ‘Get the magazine!’ so I got the magazine, and I was able to secure that,” Maisch said. “That’s what needed to be done.”

The intern—Daniel Hernandez—started working with Giffords just five days ago. He’s a political science major and a junior at the University of Arizona, and his job on Saturday was to sign in people and control traffic at Giffords’ event.

When the shooting started, he was more than 30 feet away around a corner.

“When I heard someone say ‘gun,’ I knew there was likely a gunman and she was likely the target because of her position. So I rushed to I knew where she would be,” Hernandez said Sunday.

After the suspect—iden-

tified by authorities as Jared Loughner, 22—was subdued, Hernandez said he started checking the pulses of those hurt. Then he noticed Giffords had been shot in the head, and he rushed to help the congresswoman.

“I’ve known them for a few years, and I consider them personal friends. So it wasn’t just the person I was working for. It was, this is my friend Gabby and this is my friend Ron. And I needed to make sure that they were OK,” he said.

He hugged her up against his chest and sat her upright. He tried to stop the blood loss with his hands and some frocks provided by butchers.

Giffords was conscious and alert, Hernandez said.

“She wasn’t speaking however, she was letting me know that she understood what I was saying by grasping my hand and squeezing when I would ask her to.”

Violence against politicians

A chronology of violent acts against U.S. politicians since 1900:

1901 Anarchist shoots President McKinley at the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y.; McKinley dies several days later

1912 Theodore Roosevelt wounded in Milwaukee by gunman while campaigning for president

1915 German sympathizer detonates bomb in Senate to protest U.S. favoring Great Britain at start of WWI; no one hurt

1933 Gunman wounds five in assassination attempt on president-elect Franklin Roosevelt in Miami

1950 Two Puerto Rican nationalists attempt to assassinate President Harry Truman; one policeman killed

1954 Four Puerto Rican nationalists wound four congressmen after firing pistols in House chamber

1963 President John F. Kennedy assassinated in Dallas by Lee Harvey Oswald

© 2011 MCT
Source: U.S. Senate, McClatchy Washington Bureau
Graphic: Judy Treible, Tim Goheen

1968 Sen. Robert F. Kennedy assassinated in L.A. hotel kitchen by Sirhan Sirhan during presidential campaign

1971 Anti-Vietnam War radicals, the Weathermen, explode bomb in Capitol; no one hurt

1972 Alabama Gov. George Wallace severely injured by gunman while campaigning for president in Laurel, Md.

1978 Rep. Leo Ryan, D-Calif., murdered in Guyana by members of cult responsible for Jonestown massacre

1981 John Hinckley attempts to assassinate President Ronald Reagan outside the Washington Hilton

1983 Bomb detonated in U.S. Senate by group upset with U.S. actions in Grenada and Lebanon

1998 Gunman kills two, wounds one in attack at U.S. Capitol

2011 Gunman kills six, wounds others including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson, Ariz.

Flights canceled, roads icy as storm hits South

ATLANTA (AP)—A blast of winter weather rolled across the South, coating bridges and roads with snow, sleet and freezing rain and causing thousands of flight cancellations.

The governors of Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee declared emergencies for their states. By late Sunday, snow and ice had blanketed Atlanta and Birmingham, Ala., with 2 to 3 inches reported west and northwest of Atlanta.

“We don’t have weather events like this,” Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed said in an on-air interview with CNN. “I think

the amount of snow we’re getting is probably a 10-year event for the city of Atlanta.”

Despite officials imploring people to stay off the roads, interstates around Atlanta were clogged with cars early Monday.

Georgia was expecting up to 6 inches of snow in the northern mountains from the powerful storm that also dumped snow and ice in Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas. Forecasters said the front could also bring sleet and freezing rain lasting into Tuesday in Georgia.

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley

said workers had readied snow and salt trucks to help clear icy roads, and he asked all residents to stay home Sunday night and Monday unless it is imperative that they have to travel.

Mississippi officials warned motorists that ice was accumulating on roads and bridges in many counties, creating hazardous driving conditions.

The National Weather Service posted winter storm warnings from east Texas to the Carolinas.

The snow in downtown Atlanta was coming down heavily, coating sidewalks and streets. Cars were having trouble on the

slippery streets and highways all over the South, with numerous slideoffs, though there are no immediate reports of serious accidents. At times, the snow was mixing with sleet around Atlanta, said National Weather Service meteorologist Robert Beasley.

By Sunday night, snow was falling from Memphis, Tenn., to Birmingham, Ala., to Atlanta.

Forecasters expected the most extreme conditions in Mississippi and northern Louisiana overnight with the possibility of heavy ice accumulation in places, including in the Atlanta metro area where snow

was coating the ground.

“And since it’s going to be pretty cold over the next few days, we could see whatever accumulates sticking around for a few days,” said NWS meteorologist Daniel Lamb.

Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas were expecting icy weather overnight. Around Birmingham, besides a few inches a snow, about a tenth of an inch of ice was also coating the roadways, the NWS said.

The storm forced Georgia officials to move Monday’s inauguration of newly elected Gov. Nathan Deal from the state Capitol steps inside to the shelter of the House chamber. The inaugural gala was scrapped to keep sup-

porters off treacherous roads.

Thousands of flights have been canceled at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Delta Air Lines canceled 330 flights starting about 8 p.m. Sunday and another 1,400 flights Monday at the world’s busiest hub. AirTran Airways canceled 14 flights for Sunday and another 270 for Monday, spokesman Christopher White said. Reed said officials did not want people to be stranded at the airport or on planes.

Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport spokesman David Magana said 200 flights, or about a quarter of the schedule, were canceled in anticipation of the weather.

Asia

US, China defense chiefs mend frayed military ties

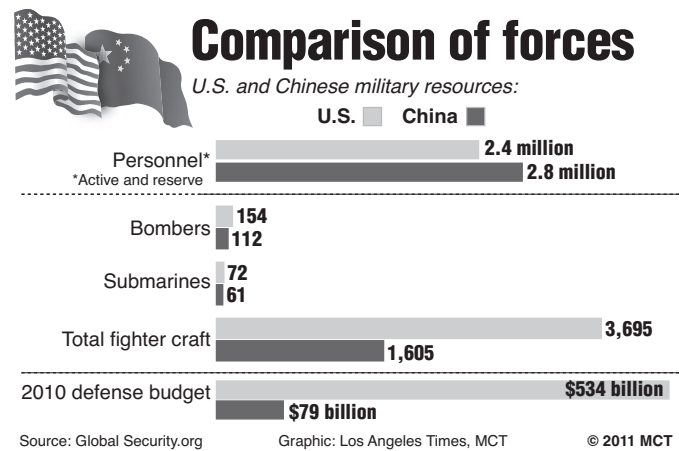
BEIJING (AP)—The U.S. and Chinese defense chiefs took a step Monday toward mending frayed relations between their powerful militaries, though China warned ties could be cut again if Washington does not heed Beijing's wishes.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie, after a morning of talks, agreed to set up a working group to explore a more formal, regular dialogue on strategic issues.

The agreement, along with Gates' visit, marks the symbolic end to a rocky year in which Beijing cut off defense ties with the United States over arms sales to Taiwan, the democratic island China claims, and objected to U.S. naval maneuvers in the Yellow Sea. Gates also extended an invitation to the chief of the People's Liberation Army's general staff to visit Washington in the first half of this year.

"I come away from these meetings convinced that the PLA leadership is as committed to fulfilling the mandate of our two presidents as I am," Gates said at a news briefing.

But the step forward on strategic talks falls short of protecting ties between the militaries from



further ruptures. Liang, who is a PLA general, refused to guarantee that Beijing would refrain from suspending military ties in the future, especially if there are future arms sales to Taiwan.

Such arms sales "severely damage China's core interests," Liang told reporters after the talks. The U.S., he said, needs to pay more attention to what China wants.

Gates' four-day trip to Beijing comes a week before Chinese President Hu Jintao goes to Washington, and both governments are trying to smooth over substantial friction over trade, North Korea's and Iran's nuclear programs and China's generally more assertive diplomatic posture.

A rapid build-up of the Chinese military has added to the tensions, fueling perceptions of an aggressively rising China, unnerving neighbors and causing Washington to insist that Beijing more clearly explain its intentions.

China has made strides in building a new stealth fighter jet, and Washington is also concerned about a new ballistic missile that could theoretically explode a U.S. aircraft carrier nearly 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) out to sea. China has also apparently beaten U.S. estimates to develop that weapon.

Gates told reporters traveling with him to Asia on Sunday that China had the potential to "put some of our capabilities at risk."

"We have to pay attention to them. We have to respond appropriately with our own programs," Gates said.

At their news conference Monday, Gates and Liang denied their governments are entering an arms race. Liang, dressed in his military uniform, animatedly defended China's growing capabilities, calling them "entirely appropriate and consistent with China's rise as an economic and political power."



U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, right, and China's Defense Minister Gen. Liang Guanglie review at an honors arrival ceremony at Bayi Building in Beijing, China, Monday, Jan. 10, 2011.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Flash floods upend cars in another Australia town

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Flash floods swept through a northeastern Australian community Monday, overturning cars and flinging a van against several trees as relentless rains brought more misery to a region battling its worst flooding in decades. Queensland state police said they were trying to determine whether anyone had been swept away in the raging torrent of muddy water that hit the city of Toowoomba, west of the state capital Brisbane. Video taken at the scene shows a man clinging to a tree as the gushing water sweeps down a street, pushing vehicles off the road and into each other.

Myanmar enacts military draft law

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Military-ruled Myanmar has enacted a law that could draft men and women into the armed forces and mete out prison sentences of up to five years for draft dodgers. The country currently has a volunteer army. According to an official document seen Monday

the law will come into force when proclaimed by the ruling military council. Myanmar's 400,000-strong military ranks among the largest in the world. Its troops are engaged in a continuing conflict with several ethnic minority groups seeking autonomy from the central government.

Strong earthquake recorded near Vanuatu

SYDNEY (AP)—A strong earthquake has struck under the sea near the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu. There are no reports of damage or injuries and officials say there is no significant tsunami threat. The U.S. Geological Survey says Sunday's quake measured magnitude 6.6 and was centered 66 miles (107 kilometers) northwest of the remote island of Isangel at a depth of 10 miles (17 kilometers). The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center says there is no threat of a widespread tsunami. Vanuatu is part of the Pacific "Ring of Fire"—an arc of earthquake and volcanic zones stretching from South America through Alaska and down through the South Pacific.

World

Up to 77 dead in Iran plane crash as toll rises

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Authorities on Monday raised the death toll in a plane crash in northwest Iran to as many as 77 as investigators searched for clues to what caused the aircraft to attempt a disastrous emergency landing.

The pilots of the Boeing-727, operated by Iran's national airline, reported a technical failure to the control tower before trying to make the emergency landing in a snowstorm Sunday night, state-run TV reported. The IranAir aircraft broke into several pieces, but Mahmoud Mozaffar, head of the rescue department of Iran's Red Crescent Society, said there was no explosion or fire.

Heavy snow hampered rescue efforts, the semiofficial Fars news agency cited the head of the state emergency center, Gholam Reza Masoumi, as saying. That report also mentioned fog in the area.

State TV aired footage showing rescue workers and local farmers searching for survivors Sunday night in parts of the wrecked plane under

snowfall and in the darkness.

State TV said the aircraft disappeared from radar and went down in farmland after making a second attempt to land. The nature of the technical failure was not clear.

A provincial official, Javad Mahmoudi, said 77 people died and 27 were injured, some critically.

But Iran's Transport Minister Hamid Behbahani said 105 passengers and crew were on board, 72 died and 33 were lightly hurt. There was no word on the fate of the two children he said were on board.

Shortly after the crash, authorities said the plane was carrying 106 people and 71 died. The conflicting accounts could not be immediately explained.

Some of the passengers were able to walk off the plane, said Abbas Mosayebi, a spokesman for the civil aviation authority.

The aircraft was headed from Tehran to Orumiye, capital of West Azerbaijan province, a distance of about 460 miles, or 700 kilometers.

Iran has a history of frequent

air accidents blamed on its aging aircraft and poor maintenance. Many of the Boeing aircraft in IranAir's fleet were bought before the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution, which disrupted ties with the U.S. and Europe.

Iranian airlines, including those run by the state, are chronically strapped for cash, and maintenance has suffered, experts say. U.S. sanctions prevent Iran from updating its 30-year-old American aircraft and make it difficult to get European spare parts or planes as well. The country has come to rely on Russian aircraft, many of them Soviet-era planes that are harder to get parts for since the Soviet Union's fall.

In July 2009 a Russian-made jetliner crashed in northwest Iran shortly after taking off from the capital, killing all 168 on board.

In February 2003 a Russian-made Ilyushin 76 carrying members of the Revolutionary Guard crashed in the mountains of southeastern Iran, killing 302 people aboard.

Nigeria: Homes set ablaze in violence-torn region

JOS, Nigeria (AP)—Rioters set homes ablaze and angry youths armed with machetes set up roadblocks Sunday throughout a central Nigerian city plagued by violence between Christians and Muslims, witnesses said.

Witnesses heard gunshots and saw smoke rising Sunday afternoon from a southern neighborhood in the city of Jos, where more than 500 people died last year.

The latest rioting comes after 11 people died Saturday around Jos from religious violence and a political rally gone awry.

Meanwhile, police in a city in northeast Nigeria are investigating a mass shooting at an illicit beer garden that left eight people dead and four others wounded.

In Jos, families hid inside homes or wherever they could find shelter from the violence Sunday. Local lawyer Kwampur Samuel Bondip said he was trapped inside a church with his family after Muslim youths blocked the road and began attacking passers-by.

Danlami Mohammed, an official with a local Muslim organization, said the youths began rioting after finding arsonists had burned homes in their neighborhood overnight.

Police officers and soldiers struggled to keep the violence under control.

"We have deployed our men to control the situation," said Plateau state police commissioner Abdurrahman Akano.

Sunday's violence appeared to be a reaction to other attacks

over the weekend. Christian youths attacked a car full of Muslims returning from a wedding in central Nigeria on Friday night, killing seven people inside the vehicle and sparking retaliatory violence that left one other person dead, an official said Saturday. Another three people were killed and several others were wounded when a meeting of a political party aligned with former military dictator Muhammadu Buhari collapsed into violence, witnesses said.

Nigeria, an oil-rich country of 150 million people, is almost evenly split between Muslims in the north and the predominantly Christian south. Jos is in the nation's "middle belt," where dozens of ethnic groups vie for control of fertile lands.

WORLD BRIEFS

France: al-Qaida involved in Africa kidnapping

PARIS (AP)—France's defense minister said Sunday that al-Qaida linked militants were most likely behind the kidnapping of two French nationals in the west African nation of Niger, who were found dead following a rescue attempt that involved French and Niger troops. Alain Juppe also defended the decision to launch the rescue mission, saying that doing nothing would have signaled to the kidnappers "that

in the end France doesn't fight terrorism." He said there was no conclusive proof that the two 25-year-old friends were killed by their captors, but "everything leads us to believe ... that they were executed," by their kidnappers.

Arab summit plan in Iraq faces challenges

BAGHDAD (AP)—Insurgent threats and a lack of hotel space for delegations pose stiff challenges to Iraq's plans to host for the first time in 20 years the annual Arab League meeting, despite assurances

from the body's leader Sunday. Iraq's government is hoping the summit will showcase what Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has described as the nation's improved security and pump foreign money into the parched local economy. "We are seeking this summit because it will confirm Iraq's return to its leading role, and that Iraq is an important Arab country," Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa said during a short speech before Iraq's parliament. "The Arab League is concerned about Iraq now and in the future."

Focus

At an event roughly three years ago, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords took a question from Jared Loughner, the man accused of trying to assassinate her and killing six other people. According to two of his high school friends the question was essentially this: "What is government if words have no meaning?"

Loughner was angry about her response—she read the question and had nothing to say.

"He was like ... 'What do you think of these people who are working for the government and they can't describe what they do?'" one friend told The Associated Press on Sunday. "He did not like government officials, how they spoke. Like they were just trying to cover up some conspiracy."

Both friends spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they wanted to avoid the publicity surrounding the case. To them, the question was classic Jared: confrontational, nonlinear and obsessed with how words create reality.

The friends' comments paint a picture bolstered by other former classmates and Loughner's own Internet postings: that of a social outcast with nihilistic, almost indecipherable beliefs steeped in mistrust and paranoia.

"If you call me a terrorist then the argument to call me a terrorist is Ad hominem," the 22-year-old wrote Dec. 15 in a wide-ranging screed that was posted in video form and ended with this: "What's government if words don't have meaning?"

On Sunday, Loughner was charged in the shootings a day earlier at a political event outside a Tucson supermarket. Aside from the six killed, 14

a five-minute drive from the shootings, in a middle-class neighborhood lined with desert landscaping and palm trees. Sheriff's deputies blocked off much of the street Sunday.

Neighbors said Loughner kept to himself and was often seen walking his dog, almost always wearing a hooded sweat shirt and listening to his iPod.

His high school friends said they fell out of touch with Loughner and last spoke to him around March, when one of them was going to set up some bottles in the desert for target practice and Loughner suggested he might come along. It was unusual—Loughner hadn't expressed an interest in guns before—and his increasingly confrontational behavior was pushing them apart. He would send nonsensical text messages, but also break off contact for weeks on end.

"We just started getting sketched out about him," the friend said. It was the first time he'd felt that way.

Around the same time, Loughner's behavior also began to worry officials at Pima Community College, where Loughner began attending classes in 2005, the school said in a release.

Between February and September, Loughner "had five contacts with PCC police for classroom and library disruptions," the statement said. He was suspended in September 2010 after college police discovered a YouTube video in which Loughner claimed the college was illegal according to the U.S. Constitution. He withdrew voluntarily the following month, and was told he could return only if, among other things, a mental health professional agreed he did not present a danger, the school said.

It was at the college that Loughner had posed his question to Giffords about government and words, one



This March 2010 photo shows a man identified as Jared L. Loughner at the 2010 Tucson Festival of Books in Tucson, Ariz.

engage in political discussions, but was socially awkward.

"He made a lot of the people really uncomfortable, especially the girls in the class," said Steven Cates, who attended an advanced poetry writing class with Loughner at Pima Community College last spring. Though he struck up a passing friendship with Loughner, he said a group of other students went to the teacher to complain about Loughner at one point.

Another poetry student, Don Coorrough, said Loughner read a poem about bland tasks such as showering, going to the gym and riding the bus in wild "poetry slam" style—"grabbing his crotch and jumping around the room."

When other students, always seated, read their poems, Coorrough said Loughner "would laugh at things that you wouldn't laugh at." After one woman read a poem about abortion, "he was turning all shades of red and laughing," and said, "Wow, she's just like a terrorist, she killed a baby," Coorrough said.

"He appeared to be to me an emotional cripple or an emotional child," Coorrough said. "He lacked compassion, he lacked understanding and he lacked an ability to connect."

Cates said Loughner "didn't have the social intelligence, but he definitely had the academic intelligence."

"He was very into the knowledge aspect of school. He was really into his philosophy classes and he was really into logic and English. And he would get frustrated by the dumbed-down words people used in class," Cates said.

Loughner expressed his interest in grammar and logic on the Internet as he made bizarre claims—such as that the Mars rover and the space shuttle missions were faked.

He frequently used "if-then" constructions in making nonsensical arguments. For instance: "If the living space is able to maintain the crews life at a temperature of -454F then the human body is alive in the NASA Space Shuttle. The human body isn't alive in the NASA Space Shuttle. Thus, the living space isn't able to maintain the crews life at a temperature of -454F."

Loughner also said in one video that government is "implying mind control and brainwash on the people by controlling grammar." He described America's laws as "treasonous" and said that "every human who's mentally capable is always able to be treasurer of their new currency."

Loughner described himself as a U.S. military recruit in the video, but the Army released a statement saying he tried to enlist but was rejected. The statement said under federal privacy law, no reason could be specified.

In October 2007, Loughner was cited in Pima County for possession of drug paraphernalia, which was dismissed after he completed a diversion program, according to online records.

A year later he was charged with an unknown "local charge" in Marana near Tucson. That charge was also dismissed following the completion of a diversion program in March 2009, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

"He has kind of a troubled past, I can tell you that," Sheriff Clarence Dupnik said. (AP)

Shooting suspect's nihilism rose with isolation

people were wounded. Doctors were optimistic about Giffords' chances for survival.

Loughner had at least one other contact with Giffords. Investigators said they carried out a search warrant at Loughner's home and seized a letter addressed to him from Giffords' congressional stationery in which she thanked him for attending a "Congress on your Corner" event at a mall in Tucson in 2007. Saturday's shooting occurred at a similar event.

Other evidence seized from his home included an envelope from a safe with messages such as "I planned ahead," "My assassination" and the name "Giffords" next to what appears to be Loughner's signature. Police say he purchased the Glock pistol used in the attack in November.

Loughner lives with his parents about

friend said. A college spokesman said Giffords often has used school property for open events; a Giffords spokesman said he was not sure at which event the exchange would have taken place.

Loughner's alienation from his friends was gradual.

The Loughner they met when he was a freshman at Mountain View High School may have been socially awkward, but he was generally happy and fun to be around. The crew smoked marijuana every day, and when they weren't going to concerts or watching movies they talked about the meaning of life and dabbled in conspiracy theories.

For a time, Loughner drank heavily, to the point of poisoning himself, the friends said. Once, during school lunch break as a junior, he downed so much tequila that he came back to class, with-

in five minutes passed out cold, had to be rushed to the hospital and "almost died," one friend said.

Mistrust of government was Loughner's defining conviction, the friends said. He believed the U.S. government was behind 9/11, and worried that governments were maneuvering to create a unified monetary system ("a New World Order currency" one friend said) so that social elites and bureaucrats could control the rest of the world.

On his YouTube page, he listed among his favorite books "Animal Farm" and "Brave New World"—two novels about how authorities control the masses. Other books in the wide-ranging list included "Mein Kampf," "The Communist Manifesto," "Peter Pan" and Aesop's Fables.

Over time, Loughner became in-

creasingly introspective—what one of the friends described as a "nihilistic rut."

An ardent atheist, he began to characterize people as sheep whose free will was being sapped by the government and the monotony of modern life.

"He didn't want people to wake up and do the same thing every day. He wanted more chaos, he wanted less regularity," one friend said.

The friends said Loughner told anyone who would listen that the world we see does not exist, that words have no meaning—and that the only way to derive meaning was during sleep. Loughner began obsessing about a practice called lucid dreaming, in which people try to actively control their sleeping world.

Several people who knew Loughner at community college said he did not

Overdrive

2011 Dodge Durango overcomes homely youth

By Steven Cole Smith
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

Dodge was startlingly late to the four-door SUV party, a problem not solved until 1998, when the company introduced the Durango, based on the platform of the Dakota pickup truck. It was an immediate hit, as Dodge adapted the tough Ram truck look to the smaller SUV.

The Durango soldiered along until a major redesign in 2004 plumped it up. Seven inches longer and two inches wider, the new model looked a bit swollen and ungainly. Sales decreased, and in 2009, Dodge decided to give the Durango a year off and start over.

The Durango is back as a late 2011 model. It is a close cousin to the similarly new Jeep Grand Cherokee—the two vehicles are built in the same Detroit plant. The main difference: The Jeep is strictly a five-seater, while the Durango makes room for seven, thanks to a third-row.

The 2011 Durango is 199.8 inches long, which is about 10 inches longer than the Jeep, and about 2 1/2 inches longer than the 2011 Ford Explorer, which, like the Durango, is more car-like than the last generation.

Under the hood, like the Grand Cherokee, the Durango had two engine choices—the 3.6-liter, 290-horsepower V-6, and the 5.7-liter, 360-horsepower Hemi V-8. Each engine has its own dedicated 5-speed automatic transmission. Rear-wheel-drive is standard, with all-wheel-drive as an option. The version offered for the V-6 has no low-range gearing, while the V-8's all-wheel-drive system does, suggesting that model is more closely aimed at an audience interested in mild off-roading.

The Durango comes in four models—the base Express, the slightly more luxurious Crew, the performance-oriented R/T, which has the Hemi V-8 as standard equipment, and the top-of-the-line Citadel, which



The Durango is back as a late 2011 model.

MCT

has all the bells and whistles. The test vehicle was a V-6, rear-wheel-drive Citadel, painted "Bright Silver Metallic" with tan leather upholstery—a little odd, as most silver vehicles we see come with gray or black upholstery.

The Citadel has 20-inch chromed, spoked wheels with Goodyear radials, two inches bigger than the standard wheel and tire combo. The ride is very good and surprisingly quiet, and handling is capable but hardly nimble. The test Citadel weighed in at over 4,900

pounds, and compared to the smaller, lighter Grand Cherokee, feels ungainly on twisty back roads. Steering feel is good, though, and the Durango is certainly competent on any type of road.

The new V-6 engine is a vast improvement over the 3.7-liter V-6 it replaces, and it's even better than the old 4.7-liter V-8. It's smooth and powerful, and the 5-speed transmission works well enough, though it isn't as good as the 6-speed automatic in the new Explorer.

NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: \$29,185
Price as tested: \$42,645
Engine: 3.6-liter, 290-horsepower V-6
Transmission: 5-speed automatic
EPA rating: 16 mpg city, 23 mpg highway
Length: 199.8 inches
Wheelbase: 119.8 inches
Parting shot: Keeps up with the competition, but doesn't leapfrog it.

I haven't driven the Durango with the Hemi V-8, but that's one of my favorite engines, so I expect good things. Well, except for one not-so-good thing—the test Citadel V-6 was EPA-rated at 16 mpg city, 23 mpg highway, while the V-8's mileage drops to 14 mpg city, 20 highway.

Regular gas is recommended for the V-6, and "acceptable," Dodge says, for the V-8. Towing capacity for the V-6 is an impressive 6,200 pounds, and 7,400 pounds for the Hemi.

Inside, the Citadel had most every feature you can imagine as standard. The main option, which the test vehicle didn't have, is a rear-seat entertainment system.

Safety features abound on the Citadel, including "blind spot detection" and "rearward cross-path detection," which monitors traffic approaching from the side as you back out of a parking space. All that is helpful, but the outward visibility is already well above average.

The heated-and-cooled front bucket seats are excellent, and the rear seat is firm but comfortable. It tumbles forward for reasonably good access to the third-row seat, though that seat is primarily for kids. There's plenty of headroom for adults back there, but legroom and elbow room is marginal.

With all seven seats in place, there's 17.2 cubic feet of storage space in the rear. Fold down the third-row seat, and the space grows to 47.7 cubic feet; fold down both rear rows, and there's 84.5 cubic feet back there.

The 2011 Dodge Durango is a marked improvement over the last generation, and it should be solid competition for the new Explorer. But like the Explorer, it isn't cheap. The base Express model starts at \$29,185, and our Durango Citadel listed for \$42,645, and keep in mind that's without all-wheel-drive (which adds \$2,000 to any Durango model) or the V-8.

The biggest chorus of cheers for the return of the Durango is likely to come from Dodge dealers, who—just as they did in 1998—now have a new vehicle to fill a big hole in the lineup.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.

Don't fret over lengthy oil-change intervals

By Paul Brand
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I mistakenly followed the maintenance schedule on my 2006 Honda Pilot that extended oil change intervals upwards of 6,000 miles. I assume there's lots of sludge in the engine. Any suggestions on the best way to clean out the engine?

ANSWER: I don't think you've necessarily made a mistake. My Alldata automotive database shows Honda suggests 7,500-mile oil-change intervals and 15,000-mile intervals for oil filter changes. While I'm not comfortable with that many miles, I doubt any significant sludge has built up in the engine. Check the

underside of the oil filter cap. If there's significant sludge, you'll likely see residue there.

Unless you find evidence of serious sludge, just start changing oil and filter more frequently—perhaps every 4,000 to 5,000 miles. That will keep the engine clean and you worry-free.

Q: A couple of years ago, I gave my son my 1990 Chrysler New Yorker. He has kept the car as dependable as a 185,000-mile car can be. Recently, however, the car experienced a complete loss of braking while he was driving. He was told he would need a new ABS module. Estimated repair cost: \$1,000.

Whether the ABS light was

on or not, doesn't it seem a terrible system design failure that would render your car an absolute "death rocket"? Did Chrysler have a recall on this? Should or can Chrysler be responsible for repairing or replacing an item with such deadly potential? If not, is bypassing the ABS a repair cost-saving option? It's frustrating to see my son wanting to fix the car but knowing that dropping a thousand into it doesn't make financial sense.

A: I understand your frustration, but we're talking about a 20-year-old car with 185,000 miles on it. More importantly, we need to understand exactly what happened. An ABS failure would not leave the car with

no brakes. With the hydraulic power assist system on your vehicle, an ABS failure could lead to the loss of power assist on the brakes, meaning the driver would have to apply significantly more pedal pressure to stop the vehicle.

Chrysler has issued several recalls for this system, including recall number 685 dated August 1996, covering the ABS piston and pump motor for the entire life of the vehicle. Other ABS components were covered by an extended 10-year/100,000-mile warranty.

Q: I have a four-cylinder 2003 Camry, and occasionally I see some blue smoke coming out of the exhaust when I

start it. Then it goes away. It doesn't seem to happen when the car has been running and restarted. It also does not use any oil between oil changes. What do you think is the cause? The dealer is leaning towards valve guides. It has 93,000 miles, and I have never had a problem with anything.

Also, I have been told that someday it may need a timing chain replacement, and it is very expensive. The dealer tells me this car will not need that service.

A: The cause? Normal wear and tear. A tiny amount of oil has seeped past the valve seals and guides into the combustion chambers, where it is burned upon startup. Because the engine does not consume oil, you've had no problems, and it apparently runs well, I absolute-

ly wouldn't worry and would not suggest any repairs.

Regarding the engine timing components, Toyota did not recommend timing belt replacement for this engine unless it was operated at low speed or idle for long periods. Under these conditions, Toyota recommends replacing the timing belt at 60,000-mile intervals.

Paul Brand, author of "How to Repair Your Car," is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paul-brand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Life & Style

Giffords story: A lesson in leaping to conclusions

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The rapidly replicated false report that Rep. Gabrielle Giffords had died after being shot in the head provided media outlets another lesson this weekend in the danger of leaping to conclusions. NPR News' executive editor apologized Sunday to Giffords' family for the false report. That story came only an hour after NPR scored a significant scoop in reporting on Saturday's shooting in Tucson, Ariz., itself.

Media organizations also faced scrutiny for how they speculated on potential causes of a gunman's rampage in a shopping center where Giffords was meeting with constituents.

National Public Radio had reported on its 2 p.m. EST newscast—and in subsequent e-mail alerts to subscribers—that Giffords had died from her injury when, in fact, she was still in surgery. Dick Meyer, executive editor of NPR News, said the information came from two different government sources, including one in the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

"This was a serious and grave error," Meyers said in a note posted on NPR's

website Sunday. He said that on behalf of NPR News, "I apologize for this mistake to the family of Rep. Giffords, to the families of everyone affected by the shootings, to our listeners and to our readers."

Mistakes in the rush to gather facts in a fast-breaking story aren't new. Yet in today's media environment, amplified by the speed and viral nature of social media, they're likely to spread farther and faster than ever before.

Within a half hour, all three cable news networks had bannered the headline of Giffords' supposed death. Reuters cited NPR in a story that appeared on the front of the Yahoo! News site. CBS broke into the coverage of a women's college basketball game to report that Giffords had died. NBC had a similar special report.

ABC was more cautious about 15 minutes after the others, noting reports that she had died yet quoting her communications director that she was still alive. The Associated Press, unsatisfied that the reports of Giffords' death were accurate, did not make a mistaken report.

Ironically, NPR's own work earlier in the day may have given its report more weight than it deserved. NPR appeared to be the first national news outlet to report on the shooting after the wife of Arizona Public Media News Director Pete Michaels witnessed the scene and called her husband.

Fox News Channel's Bret Baier said on the air at 2:18 p.m. that NPR and one of his own sources reported that Giffords was dead. Fox's screen carried the headline: "AZ Rep. Giffords Has Died After Being Shot in the Head." Another Fox reporter said that the shooting suspect had himself been shot before being taken into custody, and there's been no evidence of that happening.

CNN went with NPR's report, and Martin Savidge quickly added that CNN had confirmed the "death" as well.

Former CBS News anchor Dan Rather said that if he were covering the story in the 1970s and 1980s, he would not likely have gone with the NPR report. But if he were in the anchor chair in 2011, he probably would have.

"The pressure is immediate and almost crushing on you and your news

organization to match that," he said. "Mostly what you hear are sets all over the world going to your competition and computers, handheld or otherwise, going to a different site."

NPR's reputation as a news organization would carry weight, particularly since television news organization knew NPR was more likely to have people close to the scene.

He recalled that following the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan in 1981, there were reports—even from the White House—that press secretary James Brady had died after being shot in the head. Yet CBS reporter Phil Jones urged restraint, saying he had other sources that didn't trust that report, and CBS held back, he said.

Now the reporting ranks have been thinned to the point that many news organizations are, in effect, relying on each other.

"Most news sites, whether they be on the Internet, television, radio or print, have been hollowed out to the point where they are news packagers and not news gatherers," Rather said.

Paul Levinson, chairman of the

communications and media studies department at Fordham University, was more forgiving and noted that the erroneous reports on Giffords' death were quickly updated.

"We can't get away from the fact that reporters are human beings," Levinson said. "They do their best. There will be errors at institutions like this."

Commentators were quick to weigh in. MSNBC's Keith Olbermann said in an editorial late Saturday that politicians and talk show personalities—himself included—needed to swear off any kind of violent imagery so as not to incite anybody into acts like the Giffords shooting. Those who don't, he said, should be judged silently complicit of the act.

News organizations were closely watched in how they offered context to the events. The conservative watchdog publication Newsbusters, for example, faulted the AP for noting that Giffords' district was targeted by supporters of Sarah Palin while not discussing left-wing commentators' criticism of Democrats who did not support Nancy Pelosi for minority leader.

As always, Taylor Swift lets music do the talking

By **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**
AP MUSIC WRITER

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—For a singer-songwriter who pours out her heart in song to near transparency, Taylor Swift is tightlipped when it comes to having probing discussions about her personal life.

Over a recent lunch in a near empty pizza parlor, the 20-year-old deflects questions that may reveal details about the love and heartbreak that inspired many of the songs on her third album, the instant blockbuster "Speak Now."

The guy in "Dear John" is John Mayer, right? Which song is about Taylor Lautner? Who's Swift referring to on "Better Than Revenge"?

Don't expect Swift to tell you.

"The one thing that allows me to sleep at night is knowing that I've never confirmed who I write my songs about," the lanky blonde says with a sly smile.

And what about those strolls through Brooklyn with Jake Gyllenhaal? "I don't want to talk about it," she says, with typical sweetness.

But as indirect as she may be in interviews, she was resolute that "Speak Now," like her other multiplatinum albums, be raw and reflective of her personal journey over the last two years, despite her superstar status.

"I think the only hesitation I've seen her struggle with on this new album—was she being honest enough—'Am I telling everybody exactly how I feel?'" says Nathan Chapman, who co-produced "Speak Now" with Swift and has worked on all of her albums.

That led to one song being bounced from consideration after she played it for her guitar player—and he gave it the thumbs-down.

"He said to me, 'I don't think that



Taylor Swift arrives at the People's Choice Awards on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, in Los Angeles. AP

song is as honest and direct as you've been in your other music that I've heard from this record," she recalls. "As soon as he said that, I scratched that song off the list and added him to the list of the people that I always play music for."

"Speak Now" may be the most personal record of her young career. It may also be her best. The follow-up to the Grammy-winning "Fearless," "Speak Now" debuted last month to near-universal acclaim. It also debuted to over 1 million in sales in its first week, with the largest album debut for any artist since 50 Cent in 2005.

Days after the achievement, Swift—looking glamorous in a black lace dress accentuated by diamond-like

bling on her ears and fingers ("Urban Outfitters!" she exclaims proudly)—is still trying to comprehend the magnitude of it all.

"Mostly the feeling that I've had is just overwhelming gratitude," she says. "I wrote an album for two years. I slaved away over every single detail of every line, of every lyric, and made an album that I was proud of."

Swift has always taken a page from her diary to inform her songwriting, and "Speak Now" is no different. The searing "Dear John" ballad seems to confirm tabloid rumors of a romantic relationship with Mayer, her former mentor; "Back to December" seems to be about a romance with Lautner that ended due to Swift's missteps. Other

tunes seem to give listeners a glimpse into Swift's personal life.

While there has been plenty of speculation about who's who on "Speak Now," Swift refuses to let those thoughts consume her.

"If I factor in that millions of people may possibly speculate who that song is written about ... I may start to edit my songs down to nothing," she says. "So I keep them very, very one-on-one, just 'message in a bottle' to the person I'm writing the song to, about or for."

One message she's confirmed publicly is for Kanye West on "Innocent," which she debuted at this year's MTV Video Music Awards. West boorishly interrupted Swift's victory speech at last year's awards. It's an incident that neither has been able to completely shake (though it's a footnote for her and a detriment to him).

The lyrics are sympathetic to West and don't take him to task: "I think that there are a lot of people who expected me to write a song about a situation ... and stomp my feet and throw a tantrum about it, but that just simply isn't what I was feeling."

But Swift is weary of the subject. Right before this year's VMAs, West went on an emotional Twitter rant where he apologized to Swift; in recent weeks, though, he seems to have taken jabs at Swift, saying "Fearless" didn't deserve album of the year and seemingly taking some credit for Swift's million-week sales.

When told of the latter comments, a surprised Swift exclaims, "What?" She rolls her eyes, but quickly regains her composure and says with a steely glaze: "I didn't have a lot of choice in that situation, but the only choice that I've made after the fact is to not talk about it, and that's the only

choice I can continue to make."

Perhaps the only other moment from the past two years that tripped up her otherwise magical ride to the top occurred after her triumph at the Grammys, when after becoming the youngest person to win a best-album Grammy, some critics assailed her onstage vocal performance during the show.

Criticism is rare, but when it comes, it's usually centered on her voice, which doesn't go unnoticed on the song "Mean." On it, Swift assails her critics as "pathetic" and pictures a landscape where she soars over dreary naysayers.

"Criticism is something that is a very case-by-case situation and scenario for me, because sometimes I can tune it out and go about my day and still feel OK despite hearing something negative," she says. "But other times it levels me, and in times like that the only thing I can do to feel a little bit OK about it is to write a song about it."

It's the mantra that has gotten her to the top of the pop world before 21, a milestone she'll reach in December. The album is on track to sell at least 2 million before the year is out. It's sure to get a boost from her first prime-time special on Thanksgiving evening on NBC.

Right now, Swift is the undisputed queen of the industry—pop, country or otherwise. But the queen is a young adult trying to figure out how to soak in all the success without losing herself. To that end, she still hangs out with her core group, which includes her parents and brother; her best gal pal, Abigail, made famous in her songs; and musical compatriots like her bandmates.

"Trying to balance living between hope and fear, and some days being closer to one end than the other, and trying to figure out where I stand on that whole thing—that's taught me a lot," she says. "I guess the sigh of relief (is) that I'm living in this moment that I still feel understood by my fans. The fact that we're still on the same page, my fans and I, that makes me happy."

'True Grit' rides tall with \$15M and No. 1 finish

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"True Grit" seized the reins at the weekend box office with \$15 million, taking the No. 1 spot and becoming the first Western to top the \$100 million mark since the 1990s, according to studio estimates released Sunday.

The Paramount release starring Jeff Bridges and Matt Damon bumped off Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller's comedy "Little Fockers," which was No. 1 for the previous two weekends. Released by Universal, "Little Fockers" slipped to second with \$13.8 million, raising its total to \$124 million.

"True Grit," which was directed by Joel and Ethan Coen, lifted its total to \$110.4 million.

Among newcomers, Nicolas Cage's supernatural thriller

1. "True Grit," \$15 million.
2. "Little Fockers," \$13.8 million.
3. "Season of the Witch," \$10.7 million.
4. "Tron: Legacy," \$9.8 million.
5. "Black Swan," \$8.4 million.
6. "Country Strong," \$7.3 million.
7. "The Fighter," \$7 million.
8. "The King's Speech," \$6.811 million.
9. "Yogi Bear," \$6.81 million.
10. "Tangled," \$5.2 million.

"Season of the Witch" opened at No. 3 with \$10.7 million. Distributed by Relativity Media, the movie stars Cage as a knight in the Middle Ages escorting a suspected witch to her trial.

Gwyneth Paltrow's country-music drama "Country Strong" premiered at No. 6 with \$7.3 million. The Sony Screen Gems release casts Paltrow as a boozy singer trying to get her act straight after rehab.

"True Grit" is a new take on Charles Portis' novel, previously adapted in a 1969 version that earned John Wayne an Academy Award. Bridges stars as lawman Rooster Cogburn, hired by a 14-year-old girl to track down her father's killer.

In Wayne's day, Westerns were a fixture in Hollywood, but the genre fell out of favor over the last 40 years. There was a small surge of \$100 million Western hits in the 1990s, including Oscar best-picture winners "Dances With Wolves" and "Unforgiven."

The past decade brought the cowboy romance "Brokeback Mountain" and the modestly successful Westerns "Open Range" and "3:10 to Yuma," but none approached the earn-



In this film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, Hailee Steinfeld, left, and Jeff Bridges is shown in a scene from, "True Grit."

ings of "True Grit," which also is the first \$100 million hit for the Coen brothers.

While "True Grit" rides high, Hollywood's overall revenues continued a slide that persisted through the fall and holiday season. Ticket sales this weekend totaled \$112 million, down 30 percent compared to the same period last year, when the sci-fi sensation "Avatar" led with \$50.3 million.

The post-holiday period typically is a quiet time at

movie theaters, but "Avatar" did blockbuster business last January, backed by such hits as "Sherlock Holmes" and "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel."

"This time a year ago, that little film called 'Avatar' was just pumping up the box office in a huge way and a totally unexpected way for January," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

Even the No. 4 movie from the same weekend last year, the

vampire tale "Daybreakers," did \$15.1 million, more than this weekend's No. 1 film.

Hollywood may get a box-office jolt this coming weekend with Seth Rogen and Cameron Diaz's action tale "The Green Hornet" and Vince Vaughn and Kevin James' comedy "The Dilemma."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

'Friends' Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry return with two new series

By RICK BENTLEY
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

LOS ANGELES—The cast of "Friends" have dealt with life after the super-popular TV show in different ways.

Jennifer Aniston already had a running start with her film career. David Schwimmer has turned to directing and voice work, while Lisa Kudrow is an executive producer for the NBC reality show "Who Do You Think You Are?" and stars in the Web comedy series "Web Therapy." Courteney Cox starred in the cable series "Dirt" and now is the star of ABC's "Cougar Town."

The other two are returning to the TV comedy format: Matthew Perry on the upcoming ABC program "Mr. Sunshine" and Matt LeBlanc in the new Showtime series "Episodes."

No one's more closely associated with "Friends" than LeBlanc—who's greeted wherever he goes with Joey Tribbiani's signature line "How you doin'?" There's good reason for the close association. He not only played the role for 10 years on "Friends," but continued it for two years in the spinoff series "Joey" until 2006.

LeBlanc was offered several TV series after "Joey" but opted to take a break from acting. "Episodes," a series from David Crane who was an executive producer on "Friends" and a writer for "Joey," lured him back.

"You know, 12 years, every day, was a lot. It was a great time, but I wanted to take some time off and spend time with my daughter and just sort of take some time away from the business," LeBlanc says. "It's nice to be back now in something with writing that I have real faith in, a cast that's really talented."

"Episodes" looks at what happens when a smart British TV comedy is adapted for an American audience. LeBlanc plays himself—or at least a comedy show version of himself.

As for how much LeBlanc is playing LeBlanc, he says, "It's not really myself, I guess. It's just a character that David and Jeffrey (Klarik) wrote that happens to have the same name as me. There are some similarities, but for the most part, it's a fictitious character."

LeBlanc was willing to play himself—one way or another—because of Crane and Klarik.

"When you have writing that you really believe in, it's really easy to just blindly commit, and if you trust them that much, and they say, 'All right. Bend it a little this way or that way,' your own personal judgment tends to not get involved," LeBlanc says.

Perry was looking for a TV comedy after his drama "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip" ended after one season. He was in the process of finding partners to help him write a script for a new show when the script for "Mr. Sunshine," launching Feb. 9, came across his desk.

The new comedy has Perry playing the manager of a San Diego arena who must deal with all of the daily events at the facility while facing some harsh realities about turning 40.

Perry must get viewers to accept him as a character other than Chandler Bing, which has created an interesting dilemma for the actor.

"I don't think people want to see a character that's night-and-day different than Chandler, but we want to try to do some different things," Perry says. "So you want to take advantage of that something that worked before, but you also want to show something new."

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Season Of The Witch

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sun through Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Nicolas Cage, Ron Perlman
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Director Dominic Sena reenlists his Gone with the Wind star Nicolas Cage on this 14th century supernatural thriller for Relativity Media. As the Black Plague spreads across Europe, a group of knights are enlisted to help give safe passage to a girl whose alleged powers of witchcraft are suspected to be the cause of the deadly pandemic.



Little Fockers

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sun through Thurs	4:20	7:20	

Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A birthday party for the twins gives Greg an opportunity to redeem himself after he takes a job that raises the suspicions of his overbearing father-in-law, Jack (Robert De Niro), in this installment of the hit comedy series. Greg (Ben Stiller) and Pam (Teri Polo) have been together for ten years, and now they're the proud parents of two adorable twins. But money is tight, and in order to keep his family afloat, devoted nurse Greg takes a second job working for a drug company.



True Grit

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sun through Thurs	4:25	7:25	

Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon
Western • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A 14-year-old girl joins an aging U.S. marshal (Jeff Bridges) and another lawman (Matt Damon) in tracking her father's killer into hostile Indian territory in Joel and Ethan Coen's adaptation of Charles Portis' original novel. Sticking more closely to the source material than the 1969 feature adaptation starring Western icon John Wayne, the Coens' True Grit tells the story from the young girl's perspective, and re-teams the celebrated filmmaking duo with their No Country for Old Men screenwriting partner Scott Rudin. Josh Brolin co-stars.



Yogi Bear

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sun through Thurs	4:00	7:00	

Justin Timberlake, Dan Aykroyd
Children's, Family • Rated PG

Tron Legacy

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sun through Thurs	4:05	7:05	

Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges
Science, Fiction • Rated PG



Fighter

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sun through Thurs	4:30	7:30	

Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale
Drama • Rated R

The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Friday	4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sun through Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes
Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

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Beckham family making room for baby No. 4



British singer Victoria Beckham, centre, holds the hand of her son Brooklyn as husband, British soccer player David Beckham, right, carries son Cruz and holds the hand of his other son Romeo as they arrive at London's, Heathrow Airport, in this Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008 file photo.

LONDON (AP)—Team Beckham can soon expect another addition.

David Beckham and wife Victoria are expecting their fourth child later this year, the former England captain posted Sunday on his Facebook account.

“I’ve got some great news to tell you all,” Beckham wrote. “Victoria and I are expecting our fourth child this summer. The boys are very excited about the arrival of a new brother or sister.” The pair, who married in 1999 and whose celebrity is entrenched on both sides of the Atlantic, already have three boys: Brooklyn, 11, Romeo, 8, and Cruz, 5.

David Beckham has played 115 matches for England—a national record for an outfield player—and captained the team from 2000 to 2006. He played for Manchester United and Real Madrid before joining Major League Soccer club Los Angeles Galaxy in 2007.

The 35-year-old Beckham wants to play on loan in Europe in the hope of being recalled to the England team by manager Fabio Capello after having been dropped from the squad in August.

Beckham has previously spent two loan spells at AC Milan, the last of which in 2010 resulted in a five-month injury break after tearing his Achilles’ tendon, causing him to miss the World Cup and the MLS season.

Victoria Beckham, 36, found fame as a singer for 1990s girl band the Spice Girls and has since become a fixture of the fashion circuit.

The pair have parlayed their fame into lucrative sponsorship deals, clothing lines, and—for Victoria—a guest spot on “American Idol.”

2010 Chinese box office surges to \$1.5 billion

HONG KONG (AP)—Chinese box office takings surged 64 percent to \$1.5 billion in 2010. Film officials say the figure still lags more developed markets and urged local filmmakers to make better movies that can compete with Hollywood blockbusters like “Avatar” and “Inception.”

China’s Film Bureau also said in a report issued late last week that the country added 313 movie theaters and 1,533 new screens last year for a total of just over 6,200 screens.

The box office figures were boosted by the huge success of “Avatar.” The James Cameron 3-D sci-fi epic was the biggest hit in China last year with a total take of \$204 million. The top-grossing Chinese film in 2010 was the Feng Xiaogang disaster movie “Aftershock,” which earned \$100 million.

Kardashian sisters sued over debit card debacle



FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—The Kardashian sisters have been sued by a California company that created a prepaid debit card endorsed by the reality show starlets.

The Fresno Bee reports that Revenue Resource Group LLC filed suit in Fresno County Superior Court last week against Kim, Khloe and Kourtney Kardashian.

The sisters pulled out of the endorsement deal in November under criticism over the card’s fees.

The company’s lawsuit claims they broke their contract and cost company at least \$75 million in losses. The sisters’ mother, Kris Kardashian Jenner, and their company, Dash Dolls LLC, are also named in the suit.

The sisters cut ties to the card three weeks after the product launched following a warning from Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal that the card’s fees were “predatory.”

The Kardashians star in a series of namesake reality shows following their lives.

From left, Kourtney Kardashian, Khloe Kardashian, and Kim Kardashian pose for a photo backstage at the People’s Choice Awards on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, in Los Angeles.

Monet’s water lilies to reunite in Missouri

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cleveland Museum of Art is lending a painting of water lilies by Claude Monet to museums in Missouri, where it will join two companion paintings for the first time in 30 years.

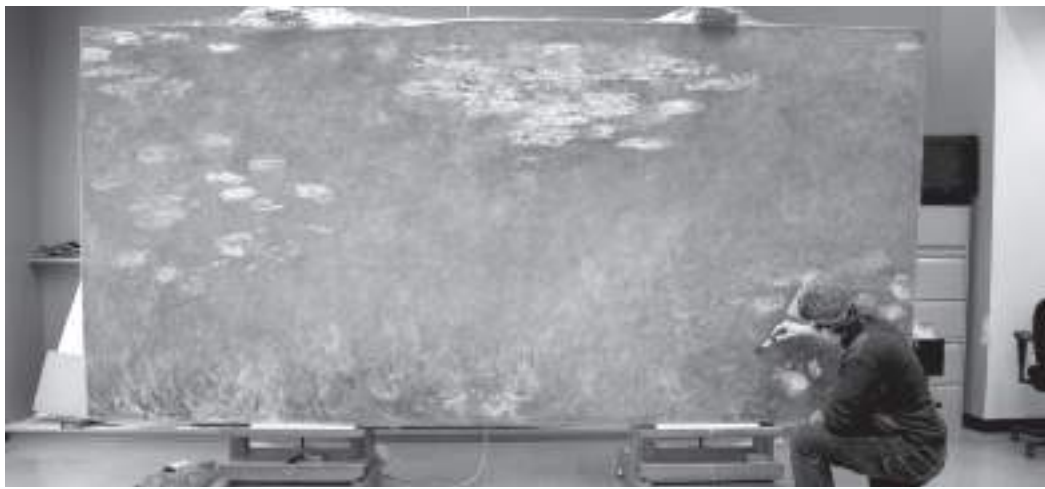
The painting will be on loan over the next year to the St. Louis Art Museum and the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo.

The Plain Dealer reports that the three paintings measure 42 feet wide when together and were created by Monet as a trio but sold separately after his death in 1926.

The shows will run from April 9 to Aug. 7 in Kansas City and from September to next January in St. Louis.

All three paintings will be in Cleveland in 2015 as part of an exhibit planned for the museum’s 2016 centennial celebration.

The paintings were last together in 1980, when they toured the same three cities.



In this Jan. 7, 2011 photo, Dean Yoder removes dust from a painting of water lilies by Claude Monet at the Cleveland Museum of Art in Cleveland.

Forgiving those who’ve hurt us is gift we give ourselves

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: “The One Left Behind in Oregon” (Nov. 16) was disowned by her parents and brother after leaving her abusive husband. She asked how to forgive her father now that he is dying. You told her she didn’t have to because he did not ask for forgiveness. I disagree. If she doesn’t do it, SHE will be the one to suffer.



Dear Abby

As a recovery counselor, I work with people to help them forgive those who had hurt them—whether or not the offenders deserved to be forgiven. Why? Because resentment hurts the resenter far more than it hurts the offender. Grudges are cancers in our souls. Forgiveness isn’t a gift we give to others, but a gift we give ourselves.

It is especially important for “Left Behind” to see her father now as a way to prevent any regrets she may have in the future. If he’s still hostile on his deathbed, that’s an issue HE’LL carry to the grave.

KATHERINE IN CHILLICOTHE, OHIO

DEAR KATHERINE: Many readers echoed your sentiments and offered a different perspective for “Left Behind” to consider. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I had an alcoholic father who beat us, then left us never to return. I was angry for years until I realized I was hurting no one but myself. He never asked, but I forgave him so I wouldn’t carry anger around for the rest of my life. I wrote him a letter and told him I forgave him for all the beatings and drunken rages. He never responded, but I felt a burden lifted off my shoulders.

“Left Behind” might consider writing her father a letter saying how hurt she has been, but letting him know she has forgiven him. She might be surprised and get a response back, but if she doesn’t, at least she’ll be rid of that burden.

FORGAVE HIM IN DAPHNE, ALA.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My family members also sided with my abusive ex-spouse. At first it hurt, but over time I came to realize that not forgiving them was hurting me more than them. I’m not saying I have the same relationship with my family now, but in order to truly move on with my life I had to clear my heart and mind. Forgiveness is not only for the offenders as much as it is for the offended. Forgive your father even if he doesn’t ask for it, and see him before it’s too late. If he sends you away, at least you tried.

HAVE ALSO BEEN THERE

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: To forgive someone is a decision to let go of the hatred, hurt and resentment even when the other person doesn’t deserve it or ask for it. When we can do this, the terrible deed loses its hold on our lives. Forgiveness is an act of strength, not weakness. It is healthy for us.

A.Q. IN MOBILE, ALA.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was in a similar position as “Left Behind” with my mother many years ago. Although I couldn’t bear to talk to her face-to-face, I wrote a letter saying a few positive things about our relationship. She never spoke of it to me, but I learned later from another relative that she read it over and over and that it was in her hands when she died. Knowing that I made the best effort I could to say goodbye in a compassionate and loving way has lasted far longer than the hurt and anger.

ANNA IN CORTLAND, ILL.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

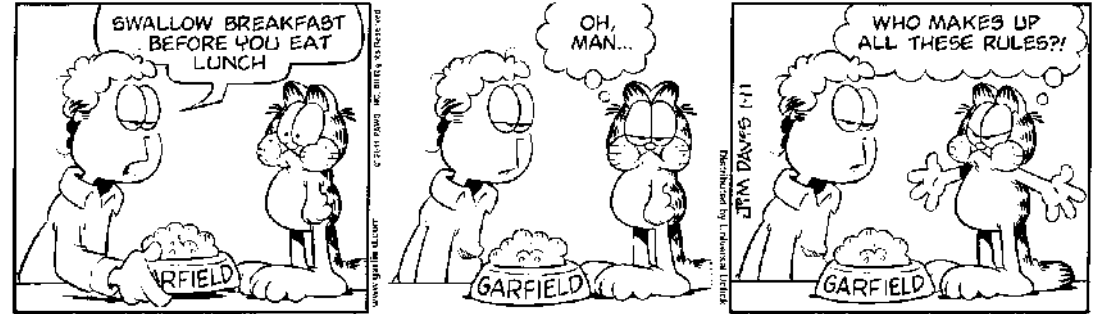
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

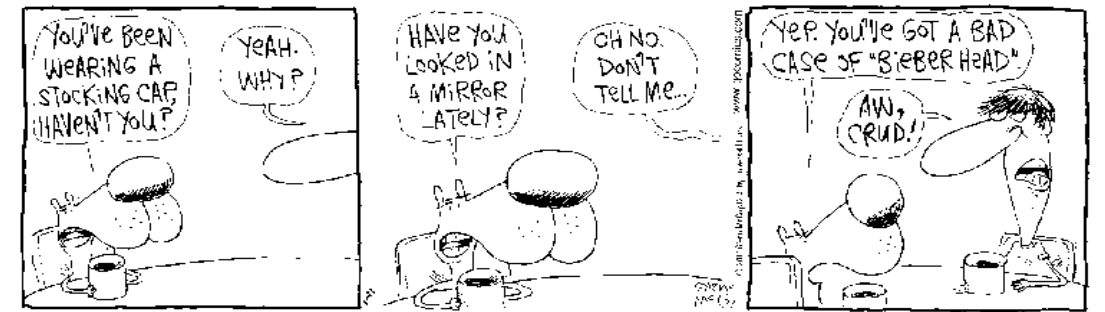


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

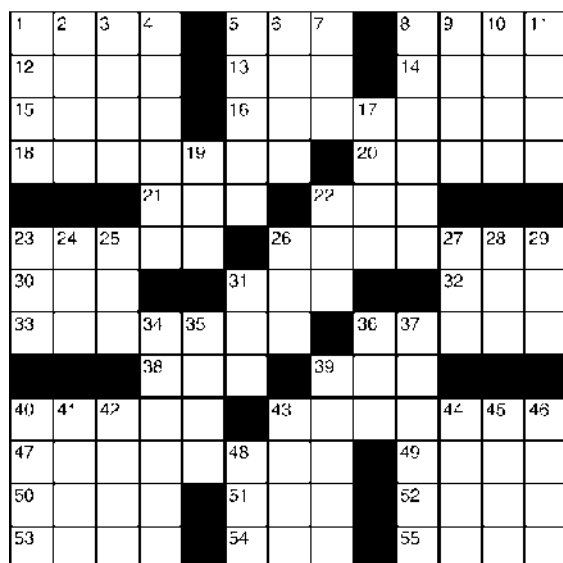
1 Shoe whose bottom logic is faulty
5 A billion years
8 Apothecary measure
12 Barber's concern
13 Biz deg.
14 Latvia's capital
15 Stretches (out)
16 Energized
18 TV oldie about the Caringtons
20 Relaxes
21 Your biblically
22 Jewel
23 Astound
26 Camping item for two
30 D.C. VIP
31 Purchase
32 Fish eggs
33 Movie snack
36 Swear-word
38 Actress Longoria
39 Fe low
40 All-wise one

DOWN

43 One whose logic is faulty
47 "Hush!"
49 Margarine
50 Admitting culprits
51 Cistern
52 Light melody
53 Libretto
54 Nay
55 Eli's alma mater
1 Lean-to
2 Reminiscent of wood, as some wires
3 Home security system?
4 Bad substitute
5 Devoid of content
6 Do as you're told
7 Siesta
8 Saw things in the dark?
9 Disenchanters
10 Chills and fever
11 Navigator's stack
17 Chick's call
19 That woman
22 Bloke
23 iPhone download
24 Cattle call?
25 Matter-horn, e.g.
26 Play on words
27 Mess up
28 Ph. bk. data
29 Ball prop
31 Lingerie item
34 Solidify
35 "Meta-morphoses" poet
36 Upper limit
37 Evil
39 Three-card scam
40 Dalmatian's name, often
41 Use a towel
42 Pinnacle
43 Vacillate
44 Pelvic bones
45 Opposite of 31-Across
46 Carry
48 Eventual

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-11



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! \$99 per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Amanda Peet, 39; Mary J. Blige, 40; Kim Coles, 49; Naomi Judd, 65

Happy Birthday: You don't have to push when all that's required is a little charm and diplomacy. Keep the peace and you will get your way in the end. This is not the year to make demands but instead to be happy that you are capable of handling whatever comes your way. Being humble will give you far greater appeal and bring better results. Your numbers are 2, 4, 11, 20, 28, 34, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Broaden your vision and it will be easier to see past the obstacles that stand between you and what you want. Figure out your costs before you make a decision regarding a high-ticket purchase. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taking on too many obligations or trying to please too many people will not allow you to do what needs to be done. You will come up against roadblocks but, if you have done your research, you'll find alternatives. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look before you leap, especially when money is involved. Protect what you have but don't be afraid to buy into a sure thing. You can improve your relationships if you enhance your knowledge and meet people from different walks of life. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can advance as long as you are consistent. Being calm and surefooted in your approach to whatever you do will put you in the

spotlight and bring you responsibilities that will buy you the freedom you need to excel. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your bold approach to life, love and happiness will be inspiring to others. Make personal changes or connect with a person or group that can help you reach your goals. You have everything to gain by taking action and sharing your views. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a stab at something you've never done before. You will find it stimulating and ego-boosting. Your abilities will not go unnoticed and an offer or proposal is likely to fit into some underlying plans. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have to divide your time and attention carefully. Someone in your personal life will challenge you and you will meet with competition in your professional life. Don't let a burden that doesn't belong to you cause you to miss an opportunity. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take on a challenge and you will find your niche. Your skills are far greater than you give yourself credit for and, if you implement them into what you offer others professionally, you will advance. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Move ahead with caution. Take care of small but important details. There is much to be grateful for and to accomplish if you work diligently to make your world a better place for you and your loved ones. Focus on home and family. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotions will stand in the way of good judgment. Ask a trusted friend to help you if you don't feel you can make a suitable choice. Problems with authority or while traveling can be expected. Don't take a chance; rely on experience. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Love is in the stars and with a couple of suggestions you will find that you have more in common with someone you care for than you realized. Working as a couple will help you achieve a stable lifestyle and a secure future. ****

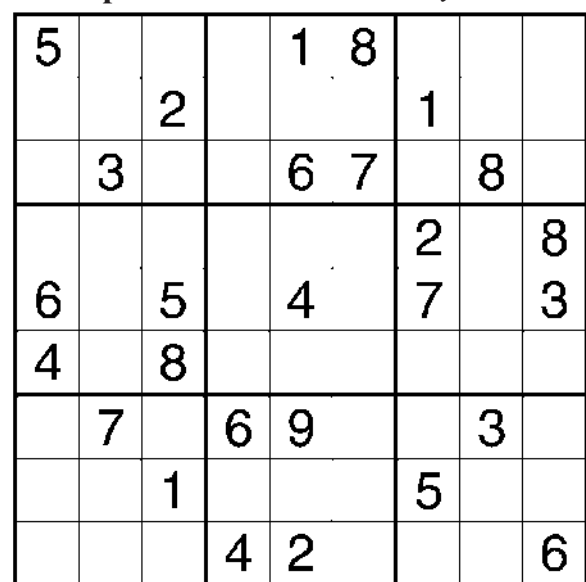
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick to your word. If you start to change your mind, you will add to the confusion and cause others to see you as unstable. Consistency will count. Overdoing it will lead to loss. ***

Birthday Baby: You are emotionally impatient and earnest in your pursuits. You are bright, articulate and do everything with intensity and passion. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

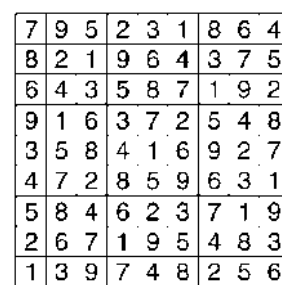
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Wonderword®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, over backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PIGGYBACK RIDES

Solution: 8 letters



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Aboard, Ages, Allow, Along, Animal, Arms, Babies, Balance, Boost, Bums, Carry, Extending, Fall, Ferry, Flatcar, Gumbo, Head, Help, Jump, Kids, Letter, Laughter, Launcher, Light, Lower, Method, Monkeys, Neck, Outdoor, Parent, Physica, Play, Race, Replace, Riding, Sweet, Thing, Toodler, Trailer, Transportation, Travel, Truck, Water Sliding, Wolf Spiders

Yesterday's Answer: Intonation

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CLASSIFIED ADS





Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 11-009

Opening Date: January 11, 2011
Closing Date: January 31, 2011

ENGINEER

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or designee. Plans layout of pole lines and underground cable and solves problems such as determining height, location, spacing, guying and insulating of poles; Computes sag and stress specifications on wire and cable; Makes complex electrical computations to determine type and arrangement of circuits and size, type and number of pieces of equipment, such as transformers, circuit breakers, switches, capacitors and lightning arresters; Prepares specifications and estimates costs; lays out substations and overhead and underground lines; Plans construction and coordinates operation of facilities for transmitting power from distribution points to customers; Reviews trouble calls in order to plan improvements to the distribution system; develops and implements a preventive maintenance program for the distribution system; Manages the integration of renewable energy generation into existing power systems; Manages installation of net metering and other smart grid applications; negotiates service agreements and manages associated costs and revenues; Checks site and ground conditions for the installation of renewable technologies such as wind turbines or solar panels Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: POWER (Distribution) Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands USA.
Salary: **\$36,000 to \$60,000 per year, Un-graded, Un-classified.** (Plus relocation costs to be determined by CUC if hired from outside the NMI. Also, note that the NMI has a more advantageous income tax system than other parts of the U.S.)

Positions: Two.
Contract: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering or other program related to power distribution. Three years experience directly related to electrical power distribution systems. Applicant with a Master's Degree is preferred. **Knowledge of:** REA standards; Mathematics; Physics; Mechanics; Computer-aided drafting and testing software; Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Basic project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. **Skill in:** Communication and problem-solving Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. local time of the closing date.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 11-010

Opening Date: January 11, 2011
Closing Date: January 31, 2011

SENIOR ENGINEER

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or designee. Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities. Plans layout of pole lines and underground cable and solves problems such as determining height, location, spacing, guying and insulating of poles; Computes sag and stress specifications on wire and cable; Makes complex electrical computations to determine type and arrangement of circuits and size, type and number of pieces of equipment, such as transformers, circuit breakers, switches, capacitors and lightning arresters; Prepares specifications and estimates costs; lays out substations and overhead and underground lines; Plans construction and coordinates operation of facilities for transmitting power from distribution points to customers; Reviews trouble calls in order to plan improvements to the distribution system; develops and implements a preventive maintenance program for the distribution system; Manages the integration of renewable energy generation into existing power systems; Manages installation of net metering and other smart grid applications; negotiates service agreements and manages associated costs and revenues; Checks site and ground conditions for the installation of renewable technologies such as wind turbines or solar panels Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: POWER (Distribution) Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands USA.
Salary: **\$75,000 to \$90,000 per year, un-graded, un-classified.** (Plus relocation costs to be determined by CUC if hired from outside the NMI. Also, note that the NMI has a more advantageous income tax system than other parts of the U.S.)

Positions: Two.
Contract: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering or other program related to power distribution. Four years of progressively responsible engineering experience directly related to power distribution systems. Must be a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicant with a Master's Degree is preferred. **Knowledge of:** REA standards; Mathematics; Physics; Mechanics; Computer-aided drafting and testing software; Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. **Skill in:** Communication and problem-solving; Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. local time of the closing date.

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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WHATZIT Solution: Hold the fort





Minor wins doubles in Australia

By ROSELINE MANSOUR
SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.

Minor teamed up with fellow Pacific Oceanic Touring Team member, Amanda Robinson of the Solomon Islands to win the doubles event and yesterday day won the U18 trophy at the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in the 18th year of the tournament.

Saipan Tribune

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Rodgers leads Packers over Vick, Eagles



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Aaron Rodgers simply threw his hands in the air and pumped his fist. No, he doesn't celebrate like Brett Favre.

Rodgers doesn't have to worry about the ghost of Favre anymore. He's made his own name with the Green Bay Packers, even moreso with his first playoff victory.

Rodgers threw three touchdown passes, seldom-used rookie James Starks ran for 123 yards and the Packers beat Michael Vick and the Philadelphia Eagles 21-16 in an NFC wild-card game Sunday.

"I never felt like there was a monkey on my back," Rodgers said. "I'm just so proud of these guys."

Rodgers had to watch from the sideline while Vick nearly led the Eagles back. But Tramon Williams intercepted Vick's pass for Riley Cooper in the end zone with 33 seconds left to seal the win.

Favre may have run on the field and carried Williams off on his shoulder after that play. Rodgers is a little more subdued than No. 4. He grabbed his helmet and went out to kneel down for the final play.

"We fought hard today," Rodgers said. "Big interception by Tramon who's had a great season for us."

The sixth-seeded Packers (11-6) are heading to Atlanta (13-3) for a divisional playoff game next Saturday night.

Rodgers patiently waited three years to become Green Bay's starter and took over after Favre's messy departure before the 2008 season. He long ago made Packers fans forget about Favre, and now has punctuated his impressive resume with his first playoff win in two tries.

"Defense played great. They've been carrying us a lot this season," Rodgers said. "We had three touchdowns tonight, it was enough to win."

It wasn't Rodgers' fault Green Bay lost 51-45 in overtime to Arizona last January. These aren't the same Packers. This patchwork squad has 10 different starters, and a much stronger defense.

Clay Matthews, Charles Woodson and Co. contained Vick for the most part. Vick threw for 292 yards and ran for 33 in his first playoff start since losing the 2005 NFC championship game on the same field as a member of the Atlanta Falcons.

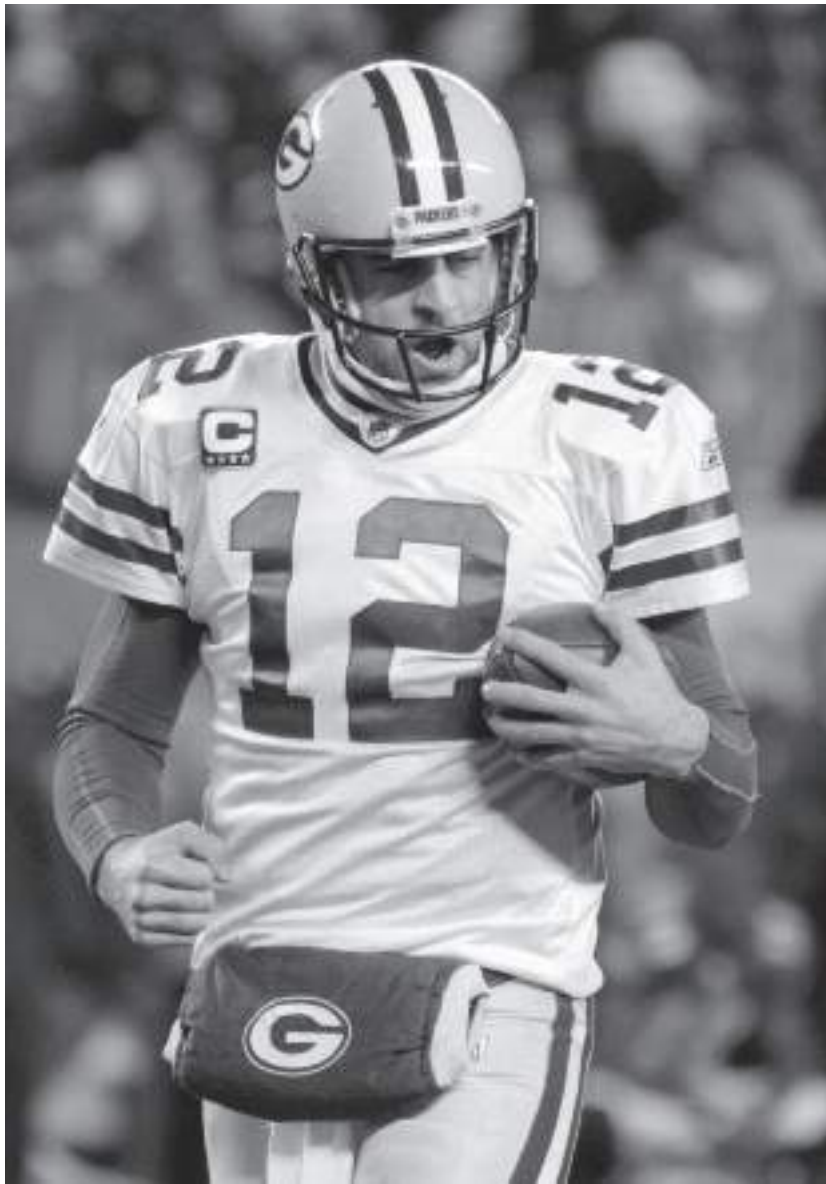
"I feel like I got greedy and took a shot at the end zone," Vick said about his last pass. "I didn't throw the ball I wanted and got picked. It's not the way I wanted to go out, but I went down swinging. I have to learn from it."

Vick has come a long way since he was one of the game's biggest stars during his days in Atlanta. He missed two seasons while serving 18 months in prison for his role in a dogfighting operation, played sparingly in a backup role last year and only got his chance after Matthews knocked Kevin Kolb out in Green Bay's 27-20 win in Philadelphia in Week 1.

Vick made the most of the opportunity. He had the best season of his career and was selected to start the Pro Bowl for the NFC.

Vick can go to Hawaii now because the Eagles (10-7) are going home.

This was Green Bay's third straight



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) celebrates after the Packers defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 21-16 in an NFL football NFC wild-card playoff game in Philadelphia, Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011.

win in an elimination game. The Packers routed the Giants on Dec. 26 to stay alive in the playoff race, and beat Chicago last week to secure a playoff berth.

The Eagles were the talk of the NFL after a sensational comeback win at the New York Giants on Dec. 19. But a stunning loss to lowly Minnesota on Dec. 28 cost the NFC East champions a chance at a first-round bye, and it seemed their Super Bowl hopes went down with that defeat.

Then again, the Eagles might have advanced if Pro Bowl kicker David Akers hadn't missed field goals of 41 and 34 yards.

"We can all count, and those points would have helped," Eagles coach Andy Reid said.

The supposedly one-dimensional Packers found a running game by giving the ball to Starks. The sixth-round pick who played in just three games had 101 yards rushing all year. The Packers had trouble running all year after Ryan Grant went down for the season in Week 1. But they exposed weaknesses in Philadelphia's defense.

The Eagles got within 21-16 when Vick sneaked in from the 1 with 4:02 left. The 2-point conversion failed, but the defense held and Philadelphia got the ball back at the Packers 34 with 1:45 left.

Vick completed passes of 28 yards to DeSean Jackson and 11 yards to Cooper before he threw the pick from the 27.

Jackson and Cooper both thought Vick should've spiked the ball and called a huddle. But he had other ideas.

"I just feel we rushed that last play

and we didn't have to rush it," Jackson said. "That's what I was trying to say. 'Just down the ball, just spike the ball, just kind of get back to the huddle and regroup.' But he called 'All go.' We just ran what was called so that's neither here nor there. It's just unfortunate."

Vick had 175 yards passing and 103 rushing in the season opener against Green Bay, nearly rallying the Eagles back from a 17-point deficit. He said afterward that he wished he played the whole game because he thought the outcome would've been different.

He had his chance, and fell short.

Down 14-3, the Eagles got back in it when their struggling defense forced a turnover on the first possession of the second half. Darryl Tapp knocked the ball out of Rodgers' hands and Juqua Parker recovered at the Packers 24.

Vick then made a perfect 24-yard TD pass over the middle to Jason Avant, who was surrounded by four defenders, to cut it to 14-10.

But Green Bay responded. Rodgers threw a 16-yard TD pass to Brandon Jackson to extend the lead to 21-10.

The Eagles failed to convert on third-and-1 from the Packers 16 early in the fourth and Akers was wide right from 34 yards out.

The Packers went ahead 7-0 late in first quarter on Rodgers' 7-yard TD pass to Tom Crabtree. Rodgers kept the drive going by scrambling away from trouble and tossing a 9-yard pass to John Kuhn on third-and-7. He found a wide-open Crabtree on the next play. It was the first career TD for Crabtree, who had just four catches the entire season.

On Green Bay's next drive, Rodgers ran for 8 yards on third-and-5. Then his 9-yard TD pass to James Jones made it 14-0.

The Packers should've led 21-3 at halftime except Jones dropped a perfectly thrown deep pass in the final minute that would've been a 63-yard TD. Jones beat Asante Samuel on a fly pattern, but the ball bounced out of his hands.

Jones had issues with drops during the season. A disappointed Rodgers fell to his knees and put his hands on his helmet when he saw the ball hit the ground.

The Packers were preseason favorites to reach the Super Bowl, but a slew of injuries took a toll. Fifteen players went on injured reserve, with Grant and tight end Jermichael Finley among the six starters.

Ravens 30, Chiefs 7

In Kansas City, Mo., Ray Lewis knows a championship defense when he sees one. Now the Kansas City Chiefs do, too.

Lewis and Baltimore's tough and savvy defense overwhelmed the young Chiefs on Sunday, sacking Matt Cassel three times and forcing five turnovers in a 30-7 victory in the opening round of the playoffs.

The Chiefs (10-7), who won the AFC West with a six-game improvement and took pride in not beating themselves, managed just 25 yards in the second half.

"To set records is one thing," said Lewis, who forced a fumble and had a sack in the second-half dismantling of the Chiefs. "To come out and play the way we've played in the third quarter all year and the last two weeks, just giving up seven points to opponents, that's championship-caliber football."

Baltimore (13-4) broke open a close game with a touchdown and two field goals off turnovers in the second half. Joe Flacco threw two touchdown passes, Billy Cundiff kicked three field goals and Willis McGahee closed out the scoring with a 25-yard run in the fourth quarter.

The Ravens will head to Pittsburgh next Saturday, renewing one of the league's fiercest rivalries. They split their season series with the Steelers, with each team winning on the other's home field.

Kansas City finishes the season saddled with an NFL-record seventh straight playoff loss, dating back 17 years.

"Our defense played phenomenal," Ravens running back Ray Rice said. "They came out in the second half and gutted that offense. It was impressive. It's impressive to be a part of this."

On a raw, windy afternoon, with temperatures hovering in the low 20s, Flacco and Cundiff took advantage of three interceptions by Cassel and fumbles by Dexter McCcluster and Jamaal Charles to pull away. Pro Bowlers Lewis safety Ed Reed led the charge.

"You just come in and make up your mind when things start going your way they start going your way," Lewis said. "We knew that this was a very tough place to come play. They have a very talented ball club. We were able to show them and that's kind of how we are built. We are built for 60 minutes."

In an emotional postgame locker

room, the Ravens gave the game ball to Reed. On Friday morning, his family said they believe a young man who jumped into the Mississippi River trying to elude police was probably his younger brother, Brian Reed. The search for a body at the scene in Louisiana has been called off.

"Just being there for strength, respect for what's going on," Reed said of his teammates he calls his second family. "They just gave me the team ball for my family."

"My family kept me focused. My older brother called me and told me, 'Do what you do. You handle your business, we'll take care of everything over here.'"

It was a week of heartache for the Ravens in more ways. Earlier in the week, the sister of linebackers coach Dean Pees died.

"Any time you lose someone like that it just draws every one of us closer," Lewis said. "Not to put Coach P's business out there, but he lost his oldest sister this week too. So as a team we had to balance that out. We had to channel our emotions."

The Ravens led 10-7 in the third quarter when Kansas City lost a fourth-and-inches gamble and then collapsed, quickly.

Dawan Landry stopped the play, throwing Charles for a 5-yard loss. On the next play, Tamba Hali drew a 15-yard penalty for a late hit on Flacco and the Ravens drove in for Cundiff's 29-yard field goal, making it 13-7 with 6:36 left in the third.

A moment later, Lewis put a jarring hit on McCluster, knocking the ball loose. Chris Carr recovered on the Kansas City 17, leading to another 29-yarder by Cundiff.

Then, a harried Cassel was intercepted by Landry, who angled left to the 21. An illegal block on Baltimore's Cody Redding pushed the Ravens back 10 yards, but Flacco made sure to convert this opportunity into a touchdown.

On second down, he connected with McGahee for 20 yards, then followed with a 13-yard completion to tight end Todd Heap, who had 10 catches for 108 yards. On second-and-4, Flacco fired it over the middle to Anquan Boldin in the back of the end zone, beating cornerback Brandon Flowers and giving the Ravens a 23-7 lead.

"We turned the ball over and that's not characteristic of us," Pro Bowl left guard Brian Waters said. "When we had to make plays, we weren't able to. When they had to make plays, they did. You can't turn the ball over."

With a little more than four minutes left in the game, McGahee went over the middle on fourth-and-1 and broke into the secondary, dragging a tackler with him into the end zone at the end of a 25-yard run.

Charles gave the Chiefs a 7-3 lead in the first quarter with a 41-yard scoring run after Tamba Hali sacked and stripped the ball from Flacco, recovering it himself.

The Chiefs' postseason drought stretches to the AFC championship game at Buffalo in January of 1994. The losing streak includes four different coaches.

"It was a tough one," Chiefs coach Todd Haley said. "I thought we got great experience for a lot of young guys that hadn't been part of this."

James scores 44 to lead Heat



PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—LeBron James had 44 points, 13 rebounds and six assists and Dwyane Wade added 34 points as the Miami Heat beat the Portland Trail Blazers 107-100 in overtime Sunday in the NBA.

James buried two deep 3-pointers and made two free throws in the extra period for the Heat (30-9), who have won 21 of their last 22 games after a slow start to the season.

Chris Bosh added 18 points and eight rebounds. The Big Three combined for all but 11 of Miami's points.

The victory was the Heat's 13th straight on the road. Miami is now three road wins away from tying the NBA record held by the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 31 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists for the Blazers.

Lakers 109, Knicks 87

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 27 points and Andrew Bynum added 18 points and seven rebounds before being ejected as the Los Angeles Lakers topped New York in a physical, foul-plagued game.

Pau Gasol had 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Lakers, who



AP
Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade, right, talks with Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) after he missed a shot in the first half during their NBA basketball game with the Portland Trail Blazers Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011, in Portland, Ore.

Jonathan Byrd wins PGA Tour opener



KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)—Jonathan Byrd had a silver trophy at his side and a lei draped around his neck, a winner Sunday in the Tournament of Champions, even if the playoff didn't end the way anyone imagined.

"Pretty overwhelmed," he said.

The emotions went beyond his victory in the PGA Tour's season opener when Robert Garrigus, the biggest hitter on tour, missed a 3-foot par putt on the second extra hole at Kapalua.

Just over three months ago, Byrd thought he might lose his card for the first time in his career. He was outside the top 125 on the money list, and not much was going his way.

Then came a hole-in-one in near darkness to win Las Vegas in a playoff, getting him to Maui for the Tournament of Champions. He made it two straight wins by closing with a 6-under 67, and winning despite the length advantage for Garrigus in the playoff.

"I can't sit here and not think about where I was toward the end of the season last year, fighting for my card," he said. "I'm just thankful, I'm overwhelmed, I'm grateful, all of the above."

Garrigus—his name might as well be "gregarious"—was thankful, too, despite a tough way to lose. He had a 12-foot eagle putt on the last hole in regulation that would have been enough to win. He failed to take advantage of his length on the par-5 18th in the playoff, hitting a poor chip that fooled him. And with a 9-iron to the green on No. 1 in the playoff—Byrd his 3-iron—he couldn't get it closer than 40 feet.

Garrigus ran it 3 feet by the hole, and tried to jam it in from there and caught the right lip.

"If you had told me this—I'd have been in a playoff with one of the best players in the world—I'd have said, 'Hey, bring it on and we'll get 'em next week,'" said Garrigus, who also shot 67. "It was a great week. I've lost about 133 golf tournaments, and it's not that big a deal. I get a nice check, and I get to go next week and relax and have fun."

They finished at 24-under 268.

Byrd had an 18-foot birdie putt in regulation to win. He had a 10-foot birdie on the 18th in the playoff to win. No putt came closer than his 50-foot effort on No. 1 in the playoff, the ball just touching the high side of the hole. He tapped in for par, and standing to the side of the green, began planning his next shot in the playoff at the par-3 second.

Garrigus put a sad end to it all.

"He just gave it a little too much gas, and missed the next putt coming back," Byrd said.

Byrd won for the fifth time in his career, and this was the biggest. He had never won on tour earlier than July. He had never beaten a field this strong, with only PGA Tour winners from last year. And this one came with some perks. Byrd earned an automatic invitation to the Masters, and with his second win in the last two months, he is exempt for the U.S. Open.

Graeme McDowell nearly joined them in the playoff. The U.S. Open champion, coming off a dream season, matched the Plantation Course record with an 11-under 62 and finished one shot behind. McDowell had a 10-foot birdie putt on the last hole that just missed.

Steve Stricker, tied with Byrd and Garrigus going into the final round, shot 71 and tied for fourth with Carl Pettersson (68).

dominated undersized New York in the paint and on defense to capture their seventh straight win over the Knicks.

The second half got testy, with numerous hard fouls and arguments between the players. Ron Artest earned a flagrant foul after clotheslining New York's Amare Stoudemire on a drive to the hoop and Bynum was ejected for arguing with a referee after being called for a foul while defending Stoudemire.

Stoudemire scored 18 of his 23 points after halftime for the Knicks, whose three-game winning streak ended.

Hornets 96, Nuggets 87

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored just eight points and was booed by the home crowd as New Orleans beat the Nuggets in one of the worst performances of the superstar's career.

The loss put a sour finish on a day filled with speculation that Anthony's departure from Denver was close after 7 1/2 seasons. A person with knowledge of the discussions told The Associated Press on Sunday night the Nuggets

were closing in on a deal that would send Anthony to New Jersey in a three-team trade.

Anthony had taken just five shots before the fourth quarter and finished 3 for 11 from the floor.

Chris Paul scored 20 points and David West had 19 to lead New Orleans.

Raptors 118, Kings 112

In Toronto, Andrea Bargnani scored 30 points and DeMar DeRozan had 28 to help Toronto hold off lowly Sacramento.

Leandro Barbosa added 18 points—including 11 in the fourth quarter—for the Raptors, who had dropped 13 of their previous 17 games.

After DeMarcus Cousins scored on a dunk, a tip-in and a layup to bring the Kings to within one point with 1:06 remaining, Bargnani made a 3-pointer and Barbosa grabbed the rebound on a missed 3 at the other end to seal the victory.

Beno Udrih scored 25 points and Carl Landry had 22 for the Kings, who dropped their 10th straight road game.

Clippers 105, Warriors 91

In Los Angeles, Eric Gordon scored 25 points and Blake Griffin had 23 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Clippers over Golden State.

Baron Davis added 17 points and 11 assists for the Clippers, who won for the seventh time in 10 games after a 5-21 start to the season.

The rookie Griffin reached double figures in points and rebounds for a club-record 23rd consecutive game.

Dorell Wright scored 27 points for the Warriors, who had won six of nine. Monta Ellis, the NBA's third-leading scorer, managed just 13 points on 4 for 19 shooting.

Spurs 94, Timberwolves 91

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 14 of his 21 points in the second quarter as San Antonio rallied to beat Minnesota.

San Antonio won its 15th straight game over the Timberwolves—the league's longest current winning streak against

an opponent.

George Hill's free throws with 3:24 in the fourth gave the Spurs a 94-86 lead, but they did not score again. Luke Ridnour's 3-pointer with 1:40 left cut the lead to 94-91, but he missed another 3-point shot to tie the game with 31 seconds remaining.

Kevin Love had 18 points and 17 rebounds and Ridnour added 16 points in Minnesota's fourth straight loss.

Suns 108, Cavaliers 100

At Phoenix, Steve Nash had 20 points and 15 assists as the Suns handed undermanned Cleveland its 10th straight loss.

The loss was the 20th in 21 games for the Cavaliers, who also lost center Anderson Varejao for the season Sunday after an MRI showed the Brazilian had torn his ankle tendon.

Jared Dudley came off the bench to score 21 points and Vince Carter added 19 for Phoenix.

Rookie Manny Harris scored a season-high 27 points and J.J. Hickson had 23 points and 17 rebounds for Cleveland.

Source: Nets 'advancing' on Anthony deal

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The Nets are closing in on a deal to bring Carmelo Anthony to New Jersey.

Talks on a three-team trade with the Denver Nuggets and Detroit Pistons are "advancing," a person with knowledge of the discussions told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The trade would reunite Chauncey Billups and Richard Hamilton in New Jersey along with Anthony, the person said on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the talks.

Although there has been progress, the person said there are potential roadblocks.

The deal would fall apart if Anthony refused to sign a three-year, \$65 million contract extension with the Nets. Billups also has said he would be reluctant to leave Denver.

Anthony refused to discuss a potential deal before the Nuggets played New Orleans in Denver on Sunday night. He said afterward he didn't think a 96-87 loss was

his last game in a Nuggets uniform.

"Uh-uh, not at all," he said, repeating the phrase "not at all" four times.

Asked if that was an indication he wouldn't sign the extension so the trade with the Nets could be consummated, Anthony demurred, saying: "I haven't heard anything. Only, that it's just been speculation as of right now."

Anthony noted that team executive Josh Kroenke and general manager Masai Ujiri "are not even here, so I don't see that happening."

In what time frame was he referring to? "I'm just saying I don't see it happening right now," Anthony said.

This week sometime?

"No."

The Nets were close to acquiring Anthony during the preseason, but a four-team deal that included Utah and Charlotte fell through. Talks progressed recently with the inclusion of Detroit.

The Nets would send rookie power forward Derrick Favors, point guard Devin Harris and others to Denver in the three-team deal that would get them Anthony, Billups, Hamilton, Shelden Williams and Terrico White, who is injured.

The Pistons would get veteran Troy Murphy and center Johan Petro. Murphy has a nearly \$12 million contract that will expire after this season.

Anthony can become a free agent next summer. He has refused to sign the contract extension the Nuggets offered him last summer.

Billups and Hamilton were the starting backcourt for the Pistons team that won the 2004 NBA title and remained teammates until Detroit traded Billups to his hometown club for Allen Iverson.

Billups said he didn't know if a trade was imminent, either.

"I don't know nothing new, so I can't tell you nothing new," he said.

‘Pacman’ fooled around with WBC



MANILA, Philippines—World Boxing Council president Don Jose Sulaiman is hurt by the decision of pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao to defend his WBO welterweight title against Shane Mosley at the MGM Grand in May.

The 79-year-old Sulaiman learned that Pacquiao-Mosley had been finalized on the same day that the premier world professional boxing organization named Pacquiao its “Fighter of the Decade.”

Apparently, Sulaiman feels that Pacquiao should have defended his WBC super welterweight title instead.

In an overseas telephone conversation

from his home in Mexico, Sulaiman said Pacquiao and his people “were fooling around with the WBC and the others,” in their choice of Mosley.

Sulaiman stressed: “He (Pacquiao) is a hero and I like him very much (but) he is not paying any respect to the WBC and myself at all. He has never mentioned anything favorable to the WBC.”

Pacquiao dominated Antonio Margarito in their showdown for the vacant WBC 150-pound title on Nov. 13 in Arlington, Texas. The Filipino ring icon won the WBO welterweight belt after a TKO of Miguel Cotto in 2009.

Sulaiman said “at this time of his (Pacquiao) life he doesn’t care about

anything, he only cares about making money I guess.”

Sulaiman, head of the WBC since 1975, said that if Pacquiao doesn’t “respect the WBC rules then we have to do something about it” although he admitted “it would make us very unpopular.”

Sulaiman did not elaborate on the statement.

Sulaiman blasted the choice of Mosley, saying “he is completely over the hill. He looked very, very bad and very slow in his last fight against a bum (Sergio Mora).”

Meanwhile, Mosley told Filipino fight fans that “somebody is going to get knocked out in his showdown

with Pacquiao.

Mosley, in an interview with a television sports show, said: “With the way we both fight somebody’s going to get knocked out. That’s the beauty of the whole thing.

“People will come to see a good match.”

The 39-year-old Mosley, who is coming off a lackluster draw against Sergio Mora after losing badly to Floyd Mayweather Jr., said he expects a war because “that’s the way Pacquiao fights. I’m exciting, he’s exciting. It’s going to be the fight of the year for 2011. I’m going to go with what Pacquiao said. He thinks I can pull the trigger so lets keep it at that.” *(PDI)*

AYUYUS

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second varsity match last night, but results of the match were unavailable at press time.

In their first game in the season, the Ayuyus, composed of veteran players in various youth league in the CNMI and the core of the champion team that defeated Saipan Southern High School in last season’s finals, were simply too much of a class against Mt. Carmel.

The 1-2 combination of center Savali Talalemotu and swingman Juan Maratita did most of the damage for the Ayuyus,

as they totaled for more than half of the team’s output. Savali had a season-high 32 points, while Maratita chipped in 18.

Kagman’s combo looked so good on the court, as they teamed up in a couple of alley-oop plays in the second half to give life to a one-sided game. The much leaner Talalemotu also collared several offensive boards for putbacks, as Mt. Carmel lacked the height and the heft to match up against the Kagman center.

However, credit must be given to Mt. Carmel for at least staying in the game against the Ayuyus in the first half. The Knights trailed by only seven at the end of the opening period, 15-22. Mt.

Carmel center Jonathan Griffin kept Kagman at bay in the first period after scoring 11 markers in that canto.

Griffin added four more points in the second quarter and drew help from his teammates, as Mt. Carmel moved closer at the break, 31-36.

However, that was the closest that the Knights could get, as the Ayuyus went back to business and started pulling away in the third period. Talalemotu and Maratita traded baskets in the third canto, lifting Kagman to a 60-44 advantage, heading into the final frame.

Talalemotu was still unstoppable in the paint in the fourth canto, adding

nine more points before sitting out the last two minutes of the game with Kagman comfortably ahead, 76-51.

Reynald Cabaltica top-scored for Mt. Carmel in a losing effort, drilling 16 markers. Griffin collected 15, but was scoreless in the second half.

MCKENZIE

From Page 28

than 200 pinfalls in any game, recording his best score in Game 1 with 199 pinfalls and followed by 139, 153, 143, 125, and 157 in the last five games for a total of 916 pinfalls and average of 152.67.

Joining Aldan and McKenzie in the three-person stepladder finals was Ryan Batac, who compiled 735 pinfalls in six games and averaged 122.50 per game.

Since McKenzie ruled the qualifier, he drew an automatic spot in the finals and waited for the winner of the Batac-

Aldan pairing. Aldan went on to boost his chances for the coveted Prince of the Lanes title when he clobbered Batac in the playoffs, 179-110.

Then just when almost everybody was expecting Aldan to win in the finals to complete his domination of the season, McKenzie came out smoking in the finals with the 25-pinfall win.

The 17-year-old McKenzie admitted he was the underdog in the finals, but said he was not intimidated by Aldan’s seven monthly wins.

“I just went out there and played my game. In any day at the alley, you never know what’s going to happen, so just throw your ball. But, it really pays off if

you regularly play,” McKenzie said.

With the win, McKenzie and Queen of the Lanes Gloria Omechelang are scheduled to receive championship trophies later this month during SBA’s year-end awards banquet.

Omechelang won the 2010 tiara after beating Yho Villavicencio in the finals last Sunday, 170-134.

Meanwhile, the 2010 King of the Lanes Tournament will be held this Sunday, also at SBC.

The men’s season finale roll-off will feature 23 qualifiers, including defending champion Percy Omechelang. Completing the list are Alex Castro, Ben Aizon, Raymond Angeles, Edward

Baluyan, Ronald Batac, Efren Cacdac, Alex Castro, Roger De Guzman, Raul Dumapit, Jared and Nick Gutierrez, John Jimeno, Richard Leong, Simon Manacop, Rusty Musca, Paul Pangelinan, Joe Sto. Domingo, Robert Talavera, Lito Teodoro, Tony Yarobwemal, and brothers Ruselle, Raymond, and Raphael Zapanta.

There will be a nine-game roll-off to determine the Top 3 qualifiers in the stepladder finals. Then the No. 1 finisher will draw a bye and wait for the winner of the No. 2 and 3 pairing for the title game. The top finisher in the qualifier will also get a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals.

NMASA

From Page 28

for the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

The quadrennial meet will run from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10 and NMASA and its member federations are still struggling for funds for the New Caledonia trip.

As of last week’s meeting, only golf

has given installment for the cost of participation. Each delegate must pay \$1,800, which can be paid for five months until April (\$360 per month).

NMASA estimated the cost of the New Caledonia trip at \$2,200 and it will shoulder \$400 of the total cost. Each athlete’s contribution could still go down if NMASA will get financial assistance from the government. NMASA had already requested for financial aid from the

government several months ago, but has yet to get a respond.

Last year when the CNMI competed in the 7th Micronesian Games, Team Marianas received \$60,000 from the government. The money from the government coffers was worth it, as Team Marianas collected 44 gold medals and finished second to Palau, surpassing its performance in the 6th Micronesian Games in 2006.

Student athletes recognition tomorrow

Meanwhile, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation will be handing out medals for the top student athletes from September to December tomorrow at 4pm at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

Coaches are asked to remind awardees in their respective sports to be at the venue to receive their medals.

UNDERTAKERS

From Page 28

30.

Joel Buniag tallied five points in the period as a lot of different hands got in on the action for Undertakers. Jun Abedes managed 10 points for Kitty Kat in the first frame, but he did not receive nearly the amount of team support.

It was much of the same in the third quarter, but this time it was Kitty Kat’s Warren Villegas who delivered 10 points only to be answered point-for-point by Undertakers’ hulking big man Joe Tudela. Undertakers maintained their double-digit margin, 67-52.

Instead of easing up for a soft finish, Undertakers elected to bury their opponents and produced their biggest scoring output of the game in the fourth

quarter. Tudela added 12 points in the final period to finish with a game-high 28, while Abedes and Villegas each tallied 20 markers in the loss.

Notably, Kitty Kat’s ran into foul trouble in this matchup as Jerry Lopez, Lilio Tiples, Boy Garcia, and Baddy Cristobal all finished the game with four apiece.

In the 40A matchup, the game was fairly competitive for one half until Islander came out and romped Ol’Aces with a huge second half performance.

In the opening period, Islander’s Warren Villegas and Jack Palacios combined for 15 points to help their team manage a 28-20 lead.

Then in the second quarter, Islander’s Jess Stoll nailed two 3-balls to help secure a 50-43 halftime advantage, despite a 14-point effort by Ol’Aces’ Rick Alejandro.

Palacios caught fire in the third quarter and added a dozen more points to his team’s cause. In addition, Islander’s defense held its ground after the break and contained Ol’Aces to less than 20 points in the period.

Islander boasted a 78-62 lead heading into the final quarter.

With the win a virtual formality, Islander called off the dogs in the fourth quarter of this matchup and cruised to a smooth victory. Palacios finished with a game-high 24 points for Islander, while Alejandro managed 22 markers in the loss.

The season continues tonight starting at 6:30pm with a 45A action between Brotherhood (0-4) and Exclusive (0-4), followed at 8:30pm by 40A’s Islander facing off Island Apparel (2-2) at the Ada Gym.

In other MBFNMI news, there will be a meeting for all 40A and 45A coaches tomorrow at 5:30pm at the Ada Gym conference room on which important matters will be discussed/voted.

Additionally, there will be two 40A make-up games on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011 starting at 6:30pm where Island Apparel will face AON Blood (0-5), followed at 8pm with a matchup between the House and Ol’Aces.

The MBFNMI 40A and 45A playoffs are set to start on Saturday, Jan. 15.

First Game

Undertakers 97 – Tudela 28, Vilasan 20, Demapan 16, Buniag 13, Pangilinan 5, David 4, Camacho 2, Tudela 2.

Kitty Kat Ferrera Builders 77 – Abedes 20, Villegas 20, Garcia 11,

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	28	8	.778	—
New York	21	15	.583	7
Philadelphia	15	22	.405	13 1/2
Toronto	13	24	.351	15 1/2
New Jersey	10	27	.270	18 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	30	9	.769	—
Orlando	25	12	.676	4
Atlanta	25	14	.641	5
Charlotte	13	21	.382	14 1/2
Washington	9	26	.257	19

Central Division

Chicago	24	12	.667	—
Indiana	14	20	.412	9
Milwaukee	14	21	.400	9 1/2
Detroit	12	24	.333	12
Cleveland	8	29	.216	16 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division				
San Antonio	31	6	.838	—
Dallas	26	10	.722	4Q
New Orleans	22	16	.579	9 1/2
Memphis	17	20	.459	14
Houston	16	21	.432	15

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	25	13	.658	—
Utah	25	13	.658	—
Denver	20	16	.556	4
Portland	20	18	.526	5
Minnesota	9	29	.237	16

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	27	11	.711	—
Phoenix	15	20	.429	10 1/2
Golden State	15	22	.405	11 1/2
L.A. Clippers	12	24	.333	14
Sacramento	8	26	.235	17

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 118, Sacramento 112
L.A. Clippers 105, Golden State 91
San Antonio 94, Minnesota 91
Phoenix 108, Cleveland 100
Miami 107, Portland 100, OT
New Orleans 96, Denver 87
L.A. Lakers 109, New York 87

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS SCORES

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)—Scores Sunday from the \$5.6 million PGA Tour event at the 7,411-yard, par-73 Plantation Course at the Kapalua Resort:

FINAL ROUND

x-Jonathan Byrd (500), \$1,120,000	66-68-67-67=268
Robert Garrigus (300), \$635,000	69-63-69-67=268
Graeme McDowell (190), \$412,000	71-68-68-62=269
Carl Pettersson (123), \$286,500	66-67-71-68=272
Steve Stricker (123), \$286,500	69-67-65-71=272
Ian Poulter (95), \$201,500	70-68-70-66=274
Matt Kuchar (95), \$201,500	69-70-66-69=274
Bill Haas (85), \$182,000	68-70-69-69=276
Dustin Johnson (75), \$162,000	71-66-73-68=278
Jim Furyk (75), \$162,000	68-68-72-70=278
Jason Day (75), \$162,000	73-66-69-70=278
Justin Rose (61), \$132,000	75-67-69-68=279
Arjun Atwal (61), \$132,000	72-69-68-70=279
Bill Lunde (61), \$132,000	70-68-70-71=279
Francesco Molinari (0), \$107,000	69-67-74-70=280
Ryan Palmer (56), \$107,000	70-72-68-70=280
Tim Clark (54), \$87,000	72-68-73-68=281
Ernie Els (54), \$87,000	72-64-74-71=281
Anthony Kim (52), \$75,500	69-71-74-68=282
Matt Bettencourt (52), \$75,500	73-70-70-69=282
Ben Crane (50), \$71,000	67-70-74-72=283
Adam Scott (50), \$71,000	73-67-70-73=283
Zach Johnson (48), \$67,000	71-73-69-71=284
Cameron Beckman (48), \$67,000	72-71-70-71=284
Hunter Mahan (45), \$62,000	70-70-78-67=285
Bubba Watson (45), \$62,000	70-70-73-72=285
Charley Hoffman (45), \$62,000	68-75-67-75=285
Heath Slocum (43), \$58,500	70-74-72-70=286
Jason Bohn (43), \$58,500	72-72-72-70=286
Stuart Appleby (41), \$57,000	69-75-73-72=289
Rocco Mediate (40), \$56,000	79-70-75-71=295
Derek Lamely (39), \$55,000	72-76-78-70=296

x-Won on second playoff hole

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiples 11, Delos Santos 7, Manglona 7, Patricio 6.

Scoring by quarters: 26-10, 44-30, 67-52, 97-77.

Second Game

Islander Rent-A-Car 111 – Palacios 24, Tiples 18, Villegas 15, Stoll 14, Pacheco 12, Surima 12, Lopez 8, Darag 4, Villasan 4

Ol’Aces 82 – Alejandro 22, Atalig 17, Mesia 12, Teng 12, Luzama 11, Rogolifoi 8

Scoring by quarters: 28-20, 50-43, 78-62, 111-82.

Defense won't rest when Tigers, Ducks meet

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
AP NATIONAL WRITER



SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) —

Steve Spurrier, the ball coach who knows a little about offense, said the game could wind up 60-55. Kirk Herbstreit, the TV analyst who knows a little about these teams, said defenses must bristle when they keep hearing about scores in the 55-53 range. The bookmakers in Las Vegas, who don't throw out their numbers just for fun, envision something more like 38-35.

There's a reason Auburn and Oregon are playing in the BCS national title game Monday, a reason the matchup has turned into a red-hot ticket.

These are two newcomers to the championship scene, both with offenses that, almost literally, never take a break. Auburn has Cam Newton, the Heisman Trophy winner who led the Southeastern Conference in rushing, passer efficiency and scoring. Oregon has LaMichael James, the key to an offense that likes to snap the ball 9 to 11 seconds after the end of the previous play, and one that scores a nation-high 49.1 points a game.

"We're anticipating it being very quick, obviously, from the things that we've heard," Auburn coach Gene Chizik said. "But we're prepared for that."

Chizik and Oregon's Chip Kelly are, quite possibly, the most obscure coaching duo to pace the sideline in a championship game since the BCS began in 1999.

Both are in their second seasons as head coach at their schools. Chizik is a former defensive coordinator at Auburn and Texas who came back to the Plains despite a 5-19 record at his first head-coaching job at Iowa State. Kelly was hand-picked by his predecessor, Mike Bellotti. After his first game as Oregon's head coach, a 19-8 loss to Boise State to start 2009, Kelly famously cut a check to reimburse a season-ticket holder who wrote him to complain about the performance.

Chizik and Kelly are both success stories in their own right but have spent the week puncturing the long-held theory that the most intriguing characters in college sports often are the coaches. Neither has said much memorable in the week-long build up to the game. After posing stiffly for the cameras in front of the crystal championship ball Sunday, the coaches headed into their final pregame news conferences.

Asked for his opening statement, Kelly responded: "Game is tomorrow night. Let's go play. Questions?"

So much for insight.

Auburn has been pummeled all season with questions about

Newton's status, the result of a meandering investigation into allegations that his father was involved in a failed pay-for-play scheme during Newton's recruitment to Mississippi State.

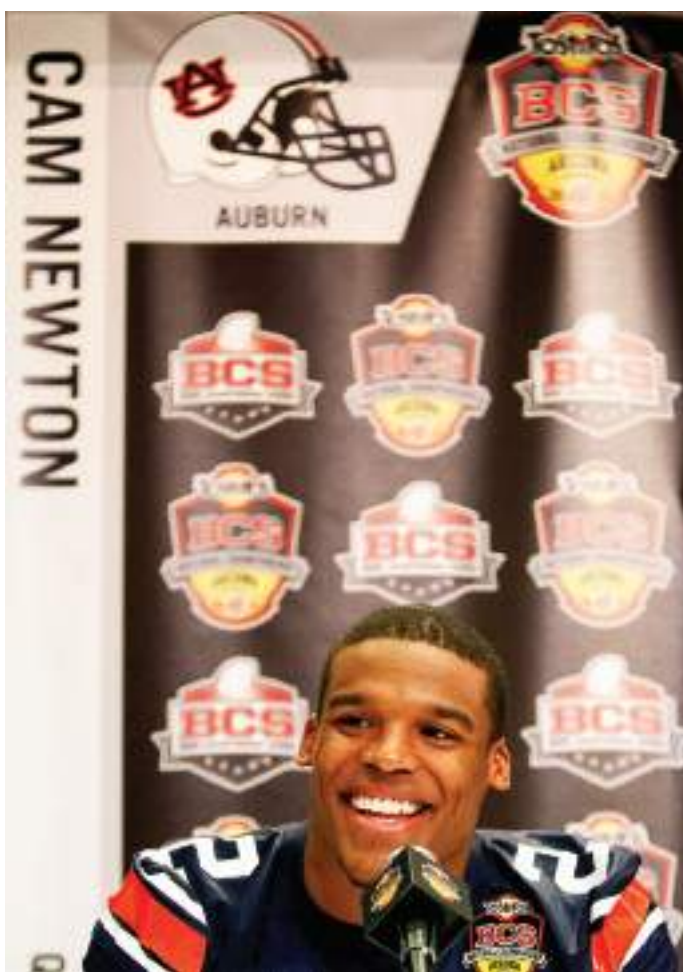
The NCAA cleared Newton to play shortly before the SEC title game, and with the Tigers confident—at least for now—they won't have to give back the crystal ball if they win it, the most notable thing to pass for controversy this week has been the debate over whether Auburn defensive lineman Nick Fairley is a cheap-shot artist.

Fairley, the Lombardi Award winner as the nation's best lineman, has brandished a reputation for playing very hard through the whistle, and sometimes beyond. How Oregon's quick—but not huge—offensive line handles Fairley could dictate how well Oregon's fast-paced offense runs.

"He's got speed, strength, technique," Oregon offensive coordinator Mark Helfrich said. "Basically, all the things you don't want to see as an offensive guy lining up against him, he's got."

James, who has averaged 152 yards and almost two touchdowns for an offense that has been held under 37 points only once all year, said he can tell when a defense is breaking down.

"You start seeing a lot of hands on hips, broken tackles, things like that," he said. "You see them blitzing but not really blitzing because they don't have the energy."



Auburn quarterback Cam Newton speaks during the BCS National Championship media day Friday, Jan. 7, 2011, in Scottsdale, Ariz. Auburn will face Oregon in the BCS National Championship football game on Jan. 10 in Glendale, Ariz.

Knowing Oregon will try to push the pace in this game, the way the Ducks have all year, Chizik said he would have a very specific conversation with officials before the game, urging them to enforce a rule that allows the defense time to make substi-

tutions if the offense does. Kelly said it won't make a difference, "because we don't sub."

"When we want to play fast, we know the rules," he said. "If we are trying to play at a fast tempo, we are not trying to sub in those situations."

Auburn or Oregon? Saipan prognosticators make their predictions

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTERS

Back home, college football fans are in the thick of the BCS Championship Bowl fever. Will Cam Newton and the Auburn Tigers reaffirm its No. 1 ranking and achieve greatness or will the No. 2 Oregon Ducks fly high with their high-octane offense to sprint to the title.

Below are the comments of our resident prognosticators on Saipan:



Auburn...because going to school in the south I have allegiance to the SEC, plus I have many friends here who are Ducks fans...so it makes it fun to be the outcast.

Jim Arenovski
Delta Management Corp.
president



I will be rooting for Oregon. I went to college in Oregon and have been a Ducks fan for

years... that was the first college football team I ever saw play live as a kid. I would root against Auburn no matter what because I feel Cam Newton should not be playing due the scandal that he was a part of this season. Go Ducks!

Eric Cooke
Saipan Southern High
School JV cage team coach



It's a tough one, but I think that Auburn is going to win the BCS Championship this year. Oregon has stunned the nation with the blur but Auburn has a little more pop on both sides of the ball. While I would like to see the Ducks come away with a victory, I think they come up a little short in an offensive battle and Auburn will get the most out of its investment in Cam "How much ya got?" Newton.

Brad Ruszala
CNMI National Football
Team member



Auburn has always been a favorite of mine. A Pierce Arrow is great but just doesn't have

the cache'. The only thing that can beat an Auburn Boat tail is a Duesenberg, and even that was headquartered in...yep, Auburn. Oregon? Spotted owls have no chance against a nicely tuned Auburn."

Bruce Bateman
Marianas Visitors Authority
marketing manager



I'm going for the Ducks because they played very well this year and they deserve it for their hardwork. Auburn may be a good team, but I don't think they'll be able to keep up with Oregon's intensity.

James Lee
Unified Basketball Association
president



It will be 35-27, Oregon. Auburn doesn't have enough to stop Oregon, but Oregon has just enough to stop Auburn!

Gil Birnrich
Saipan Outriggers Club

Oregon wins it, 28-21. I haven't been following the games very closely, but have noticed that the

Oregon's mission on defense is to try and become the first team to stop Newton, who has the body of a linebacker—6-foot-6, 250 pounds—but the skills of a top running back and quarterback.

He averages 108 yards rushing a game, completes 67 percent of his passes and has accounted for 49 touchdowns - 21 running and 28 passing. After he passed for 335 yards and four touchdowns and ran for two more scores in a 56-17 blowout of South Carolina in the SEC title game, Spurrier, the Gamecocks coach, said a 60-55 score was a possibility in the title game. "You have two of the best offensive minds in football," he said, speaking of Kelly and Auburn offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn.

All of which may really mean that whichever defense plays better will lead its team to a championship.

"I think both defenses have something to prove and want to show up and are tired of answering questions about how it's going to be 55-53," Herbstreit said. "I think they have a point to prove. I think it will be a low-scoring game, lower-scoring because of the way the two defenses are going to show up in a bad mood."

But while defense wins championships, offense sells tickets, and almost everything points to this being a high-scoring game. Auburn heads into the game favored by 2 1/2 points, though more telling is the over-under

for the contest, set at a whopping 74 points.

Demand for this game was, according to ticket seller StubHub, at a record level. So high at one point that the company had to shut down sales when it ran into a glitch with one of its sellers. That problem was remedied, but tickets for the game were still averaging in the \$2,000 range Sunday on a variety of broker websites. An estimated 15,000 Auburn fans came to Arizona without tickets, hoping to be part of a championship moment that hasn't happened at that school since 1957.

Oregon has never won a national title, and hadn't had that on the radar until about a decade ago. The school that produced Norm Van Brocklin, Dan Fouts and Ahmad Rashad on the football field is still probably best known as a counterculture track school where the late runner Steve Prefontaine, of 1970s fame, remains the top sports figure.

Kelly, however, does not plan to use this game as a way to change the culture. He's more about a great offense than grand pronouncements.

"We stand for three things: playing fast, playing hard and finishing. We've done it with our 12 opportunities," he said. "Our vision has not to do with championships. Our vision has nothing to do with getting a crystal ball or rings. It is all about playing the game. That's what we've done all along and that's what our vision is."



analysts are raving about both teams. Since Oregon is closer to home, I'll root for them.

Marvin Deocares
Unified Basketball Association
director



Oregon by 17. I know its crazy but that's my call!

Mark Flores
Little league
Ol'Aces coach



This one is a good match-up, but I'll go with Auburn to edge out Oregon because I think they have the better defense.

Cuki Alvarez
Trench Tech president



Auburn, 31-17. Although they have had some recent success, Oregon is still new to the Bowl-game scene, while Auburn has been an established program for a long time. Auburn will take this psychological advantage with

them into the game and Cam Newton will lead them to victory.

Ed Arriola
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
manager



I am not sure of the final score, but I'm naturally pulling for the Oregon and the many islanders who go to school over there. They have the speed, and as they say, speed kills!

Gabe White
FIBA international referee



Oregon by a touchdown. I always like to cheer for the underdogs! They aren't huge underdogs so I'm not expecting a blowout from either side, but I'm pulling for them, nonetheless.

Kelvin Fital
Marianas Elite founder



Ducks by a field goal in OT, but Auburn will ruffle some feathers!

Randy Taylor
Trench Tech co-owner



James scores
44 to lead
Heat

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Rodgers leads
Packers over
Vick, Eagles

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011

Ayuyus crush Knights in MISO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Kagman High School proved it is indeed the team to beat in the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League after posting the most lopsided victory early in the season.



The Ayuyus routed Mt. Carmel School, 79-56, yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, handing the Knights a 0-2 record in the varsity division.

The victory put the defending champion in the company of opening week winners MHS Dolphins and Grace Christian Academy. The Eagles and Dolphins were squaring off in the

See AYUYUS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kagman High School's Savali Talalemotu reaches for the ball, while Mt. Carmel School's Geza Baka backs him out during the rebound play in the third quarter of their game in the MISO caging yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

McKenzie stuns Aldan, wins 2010 youth title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Marion McKenzie stole the thunder from highly favored

M.J. Aldan after ruling the 2010 Saipan Bowling Association-Budweiser Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tournament last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

McKenzie topped the six-game qualifier and eventually prevailed in the stepladder finals to claim the 2010 Prince of the Lanes title. The Kagman High School student had a six-game total of 992 pinfalls in the qualifier for an average of 165.17 pinfall per game. In the finals, McKenzie posted 200 against Aldan's 175 to complete the upset.

Coming into the season-ending roll-off, Aldan had won the last three monthly tournaments and four other events, making him the winningest youth kegler in 2010 and the top favorite for the 2010 Prince of the Lanes crown. McKenzie also won multiple monthly plums, reigning in the January, March, and October roll-offs.

In the finale, McKenzie and



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marion McKenzie poses for a photo after ruling the 2010 Budweiser Prince/Princes of the Lanes Tournament last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Aldan were still at it, claiming the Top 2 spots after the six-game qualifying tournament. McKenzie knocked down 200-plus pins in Games 3 and 2 (211 and 200), had 130 and 125 in the first two games and 175 and 150 in Games 4 and 5 for a 75-pinfall lead over Aldan.

Aldan failed to post more
See MCKENZIE on Page 26

NMASA reelects board

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The nine-member Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association Board was reelected unanimously during the association's annual election last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The NMASA board is composed of current president Michael White, tennis' Jeff Race, golf's Jess Wabol and Jordon Kosam, canoe's Gil Birnrich, baseball's Rose Igitol and Tony Rogolifoi, basketball's Elias Rangamar, and football's Ed Salas. These are the same people who served in the 2010 board.

When the election was called to order last week, NMASA members were asked to make nominations. A motion to nominate individuals who served in the 2010 board was made and seconded. NMASA members present at the meeting went on to vote unanimously for the nominees, giving them another one-year term in office.

The board is expected to meet this week to elect its officers.

After the election, the board will have a lot of work to do this season, as the CNMI prepares
See NMASA on Page 26



White



Race



Wabol



Kosam



Birnrich



Igitol



Rogolifoi



Rangamar



Salas

Undertakers, Islanders quash opponents

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Undertakers came out on top of their anticipated 45A matchup over Kitty Kat Ferrera Builders, 97-77; while Islander Rent-A-Car blew out Ol'Aces, 111-82, in 40A play as the Master Basketball Federation of the NMI's Memorial Cup

continued last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Undertakers' win improved their win-loss card to 4-1 and they are now in a two-way tie for first place in the division standings with Top 45.

Islander notched its fourth

win in five games, but is still getting edged out in the standings by undefeated The House (5-0) and second-ranked Armat-eck (5-1), while the Ol'Aces' record dropped to a pair of wins with three losses.

The Undertakers got to work right from the tip to build an early 26-10 advantage. George Villasan led the charge for Undertakers with eight markers in the opening 10 minutes of action.

Kitty Kat struggled to gain any ground in the second quarter as both teams merely traded baskets. At halftime, Undertakers kept the Kats in the bag, 44-
See UNDERTAKERS on Page 26

